

CRITICAL ROLE VOX MACHINA ORIGINS



MATTHEW MERCER
OLIVIA SAMSON

MATTHEW COLVILLE
CHRIS NORTHROP

CRITICAL ROLE
VOX|MACHINATM
ORIGINS

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Characters Created by the Cast of
CRITICAL ROLE

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CRITICAL ROLE: VOX MACHINA ORIGINS

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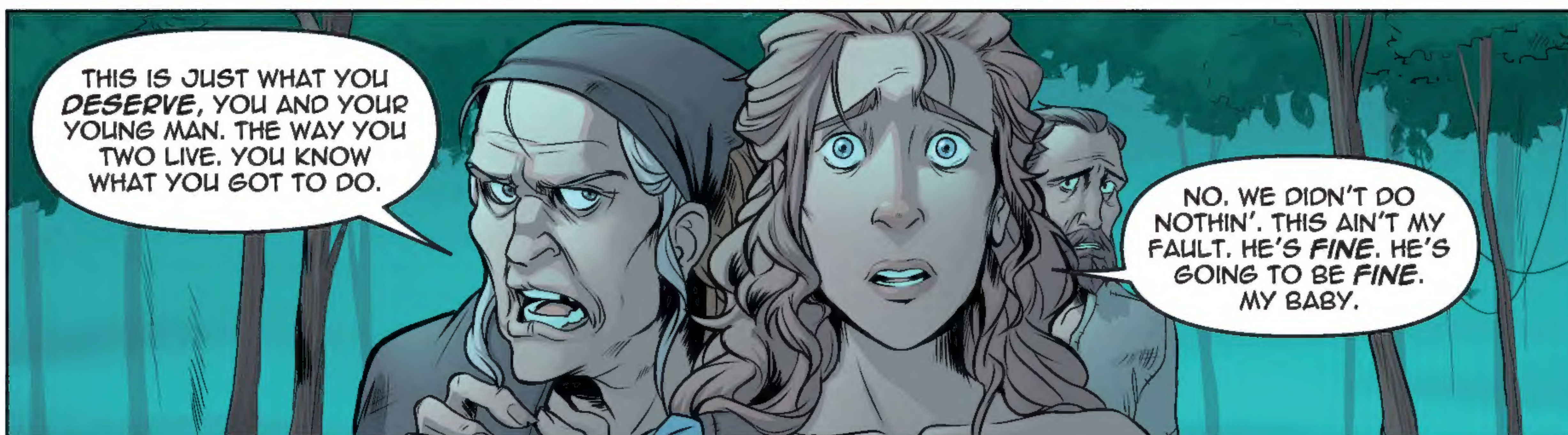
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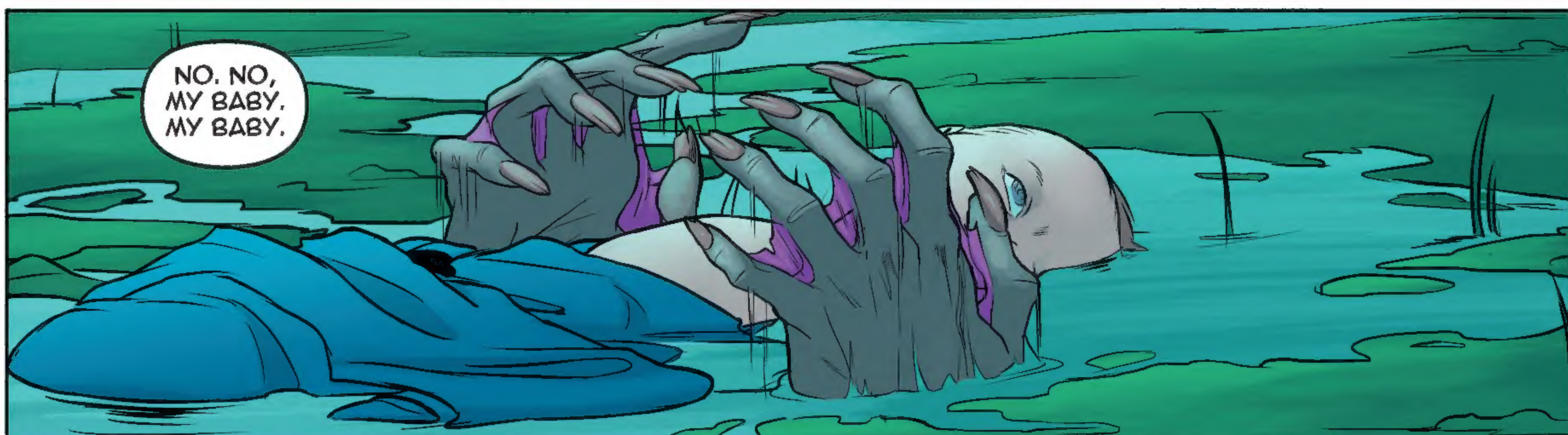
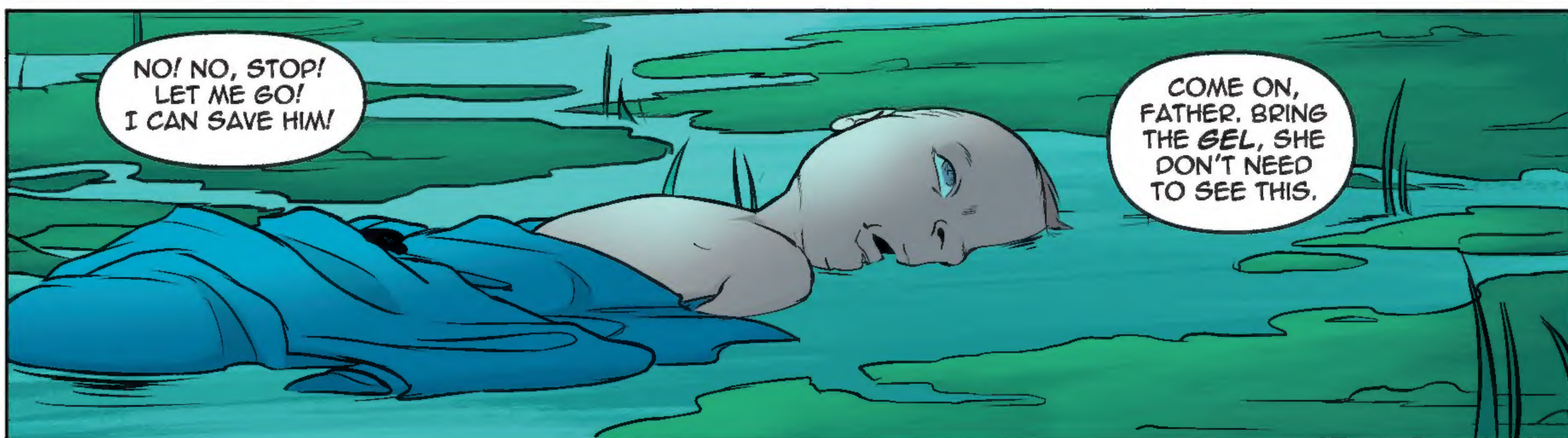
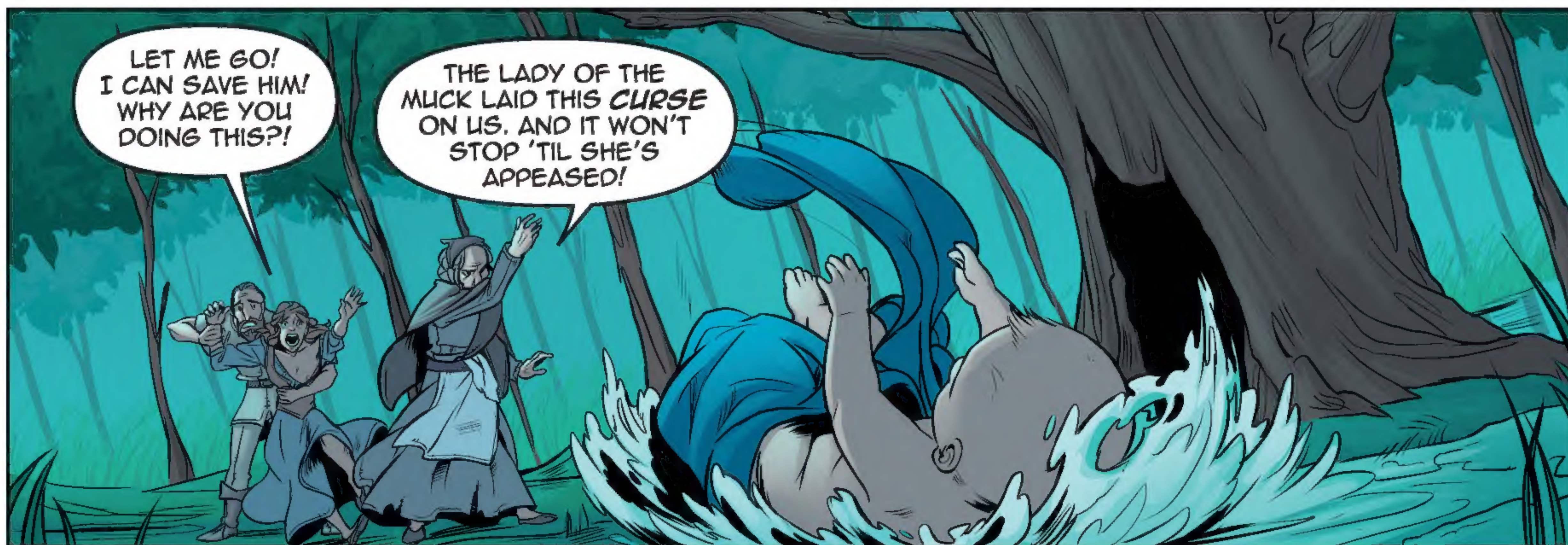
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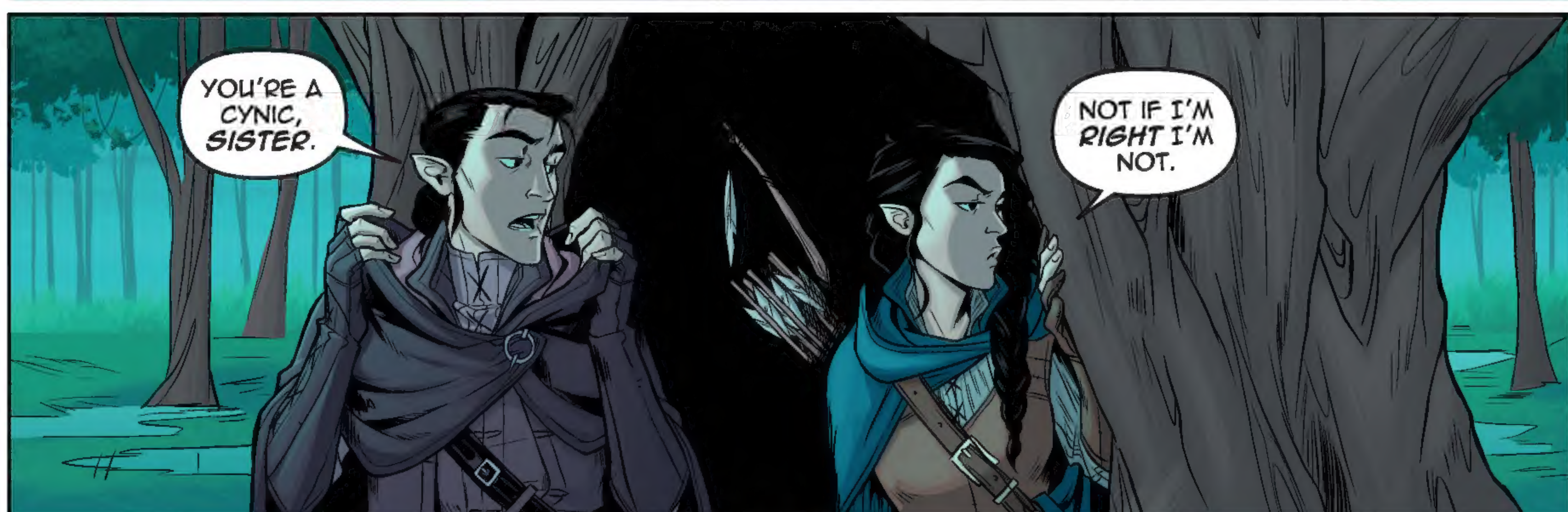


WELCOME TO THE WORLD, KID. YOU DIDN'T MISS ANYTHING.



WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE THESE?

NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER. AT LEAST THAT MOTHER FOUGHT TO KEEP HER CHILD.



YOU'RE A CYNIC, SISTER.

NOT IF I'M RIGHT I'M NOT.



WE SHOULD WAIT 'TIL SHE'S AWAY FROM HER PARENTS AND TALK TO HER.

YOU CAN TALK TO PEASANTS ANYTIME. TRACKING'S HARD ENOUGH ON LAND.

ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ACROSS WATER.

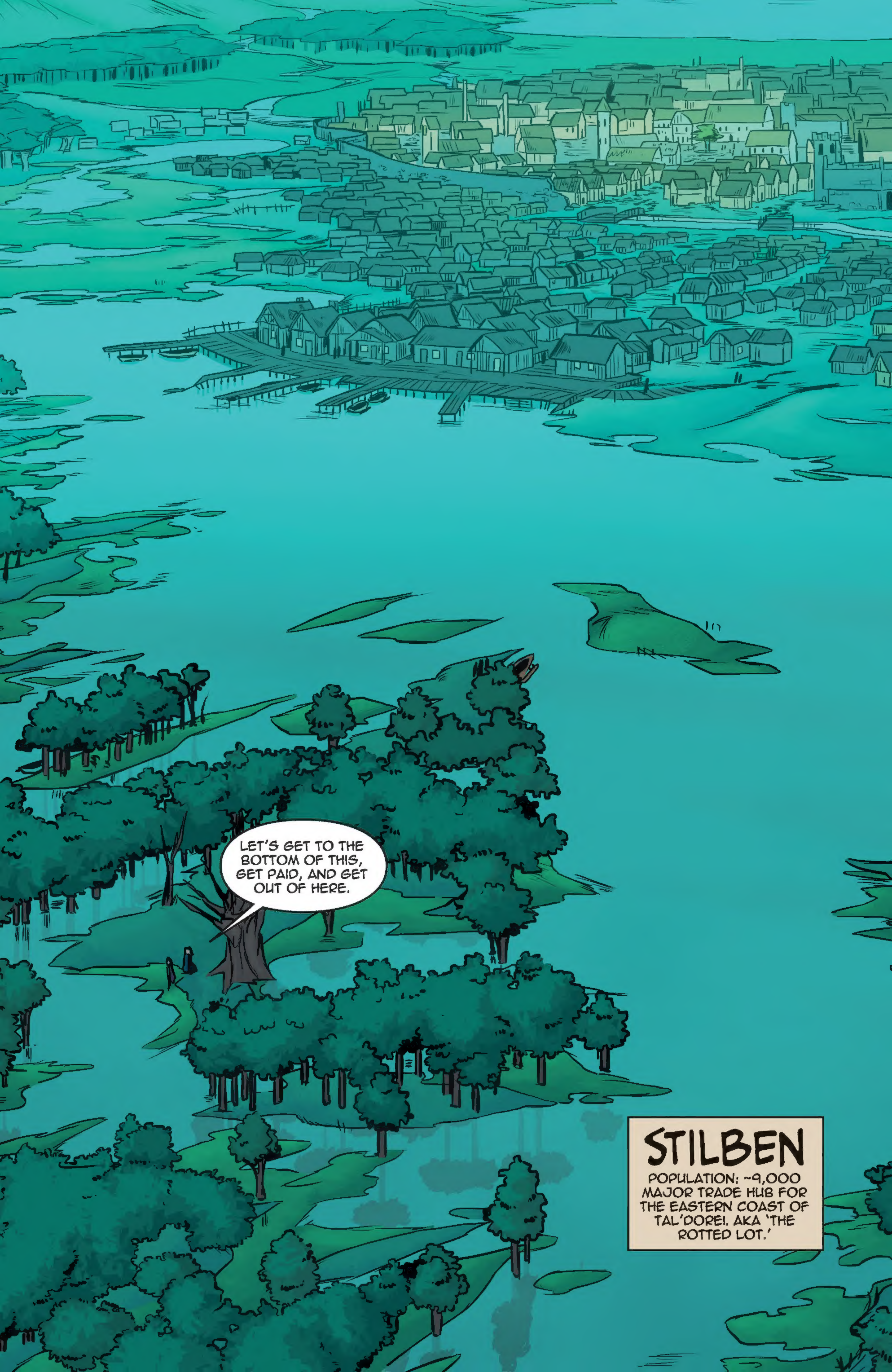


I FEEL EXPOSED OUT HERE. GOOD PLACE FOR AN AMBUSH. WE CAN AVOID THAT, RIGHT?

BUT YOU CAN TRACK THEM? ACROSS WATER?

OF COURSE I CAN. NOW COME ON...

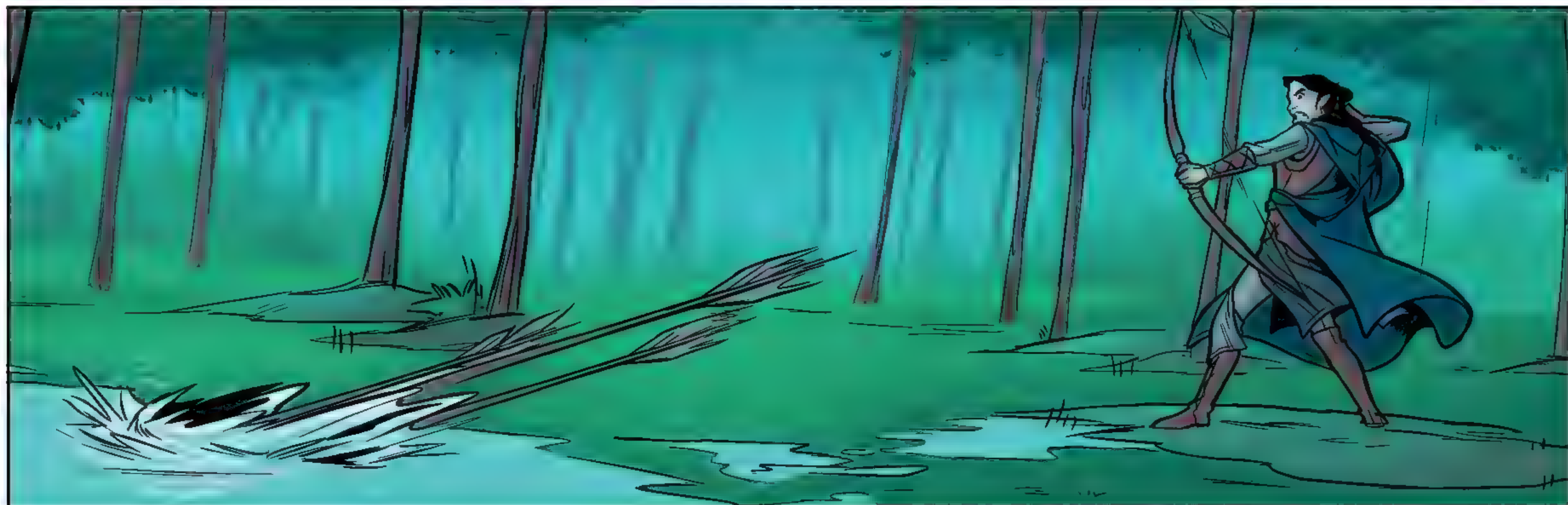
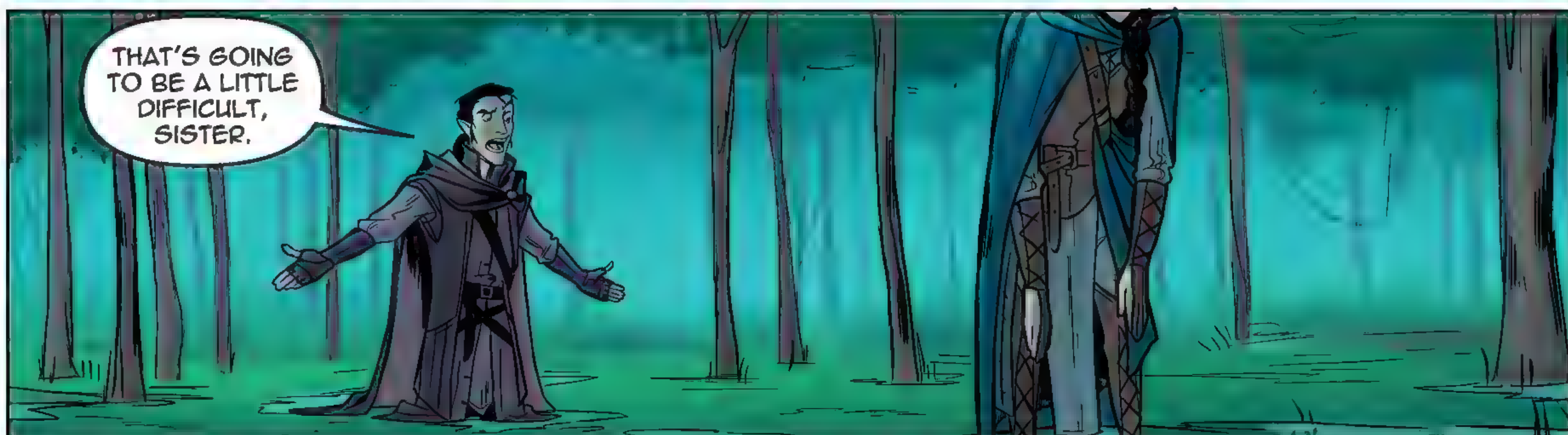
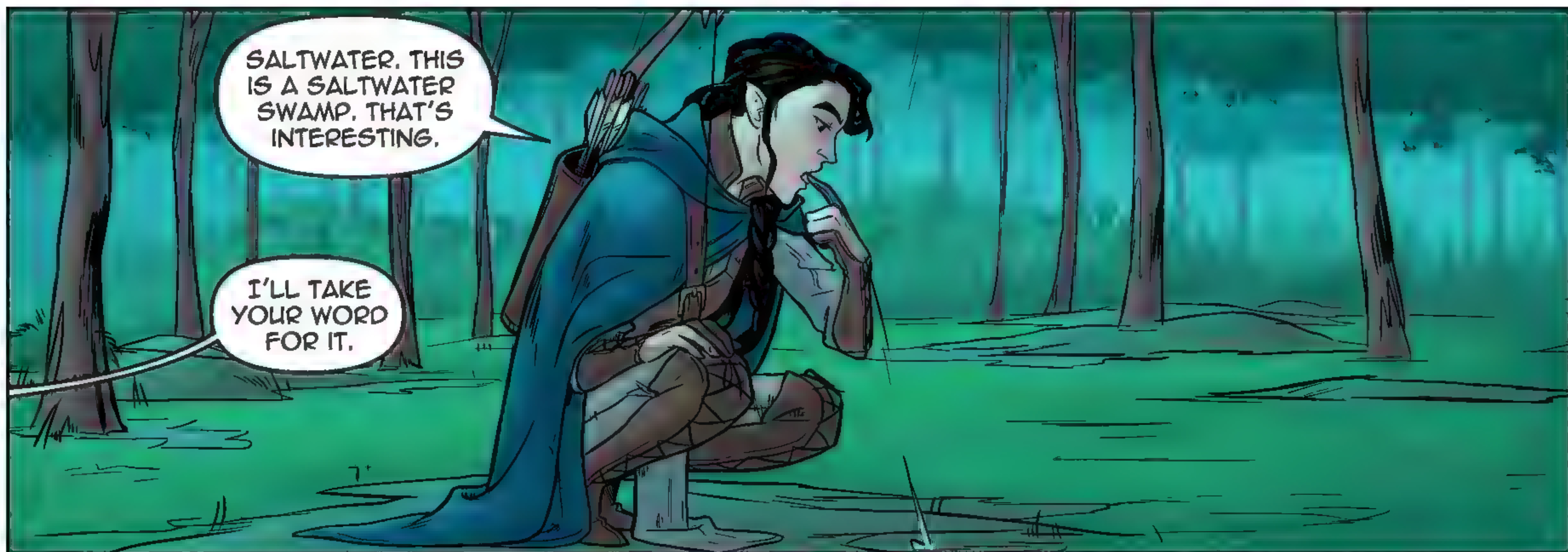
IT'S THEIR SWAMP, BROTHER. WHOEVER THEY ARE. IF THEY WANT TO AMBUSH US THERE ISN'T A LOT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

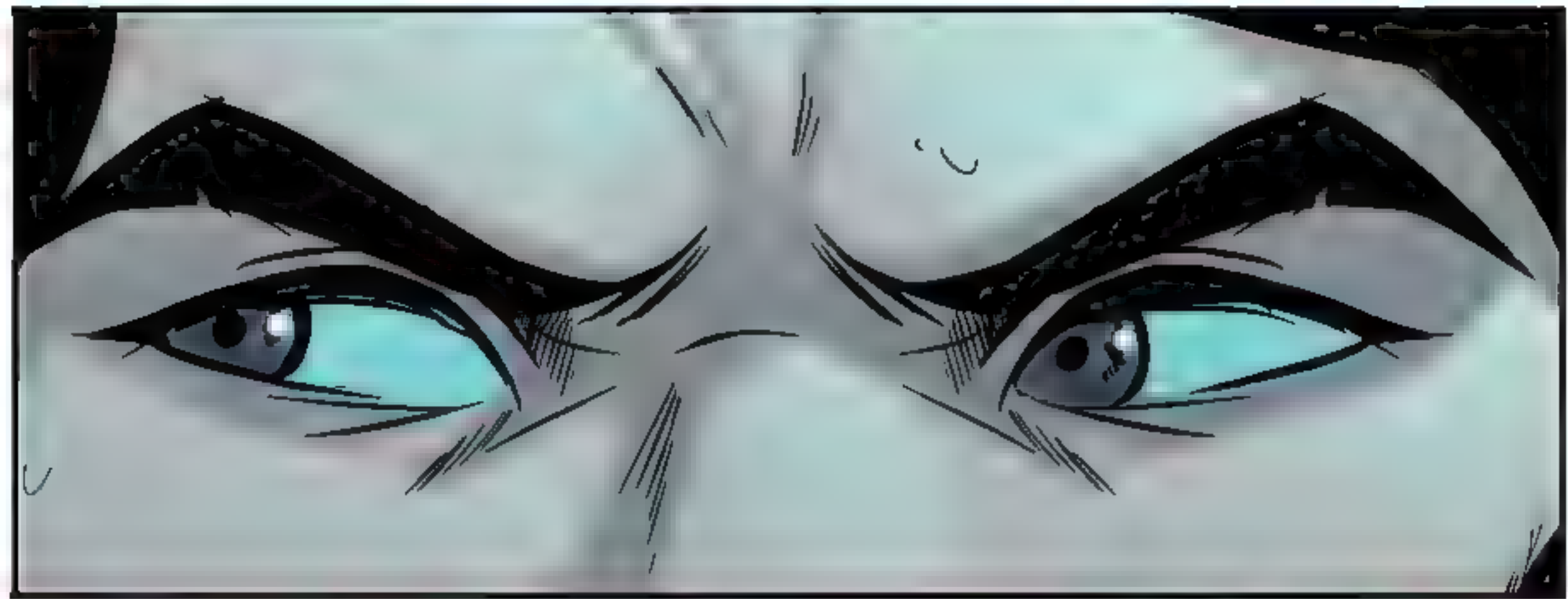
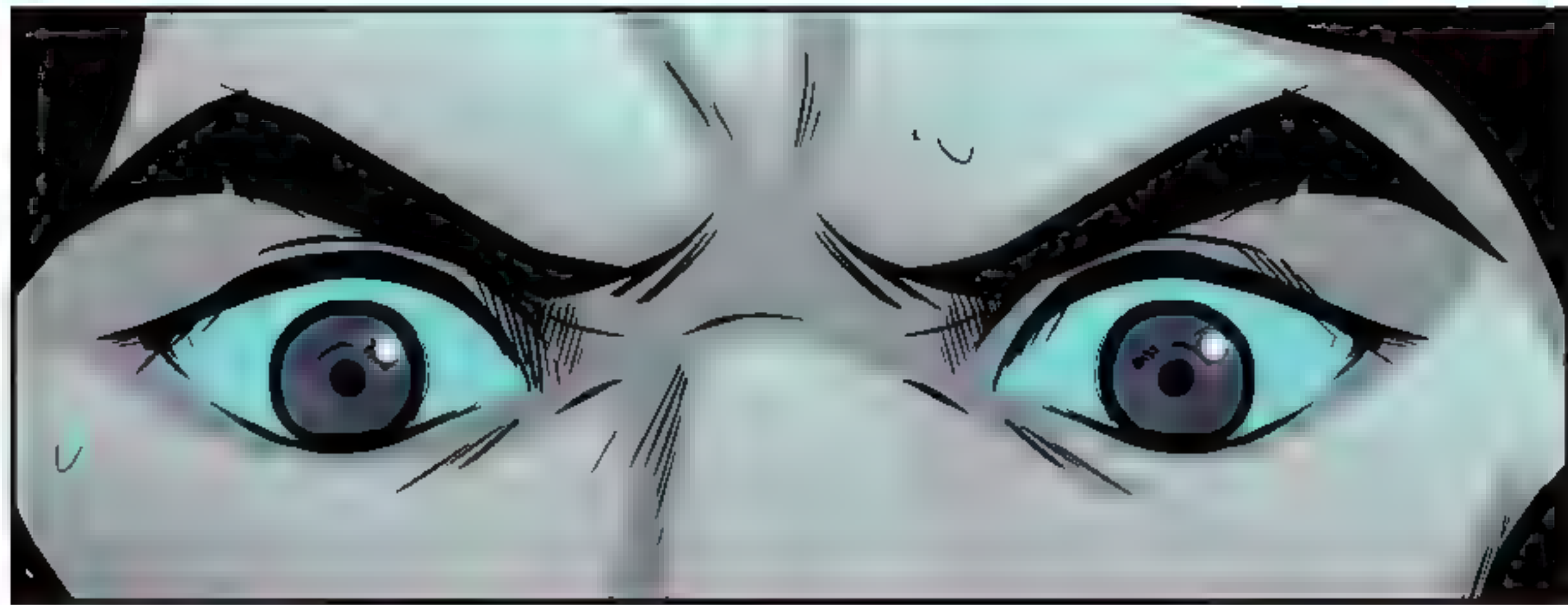
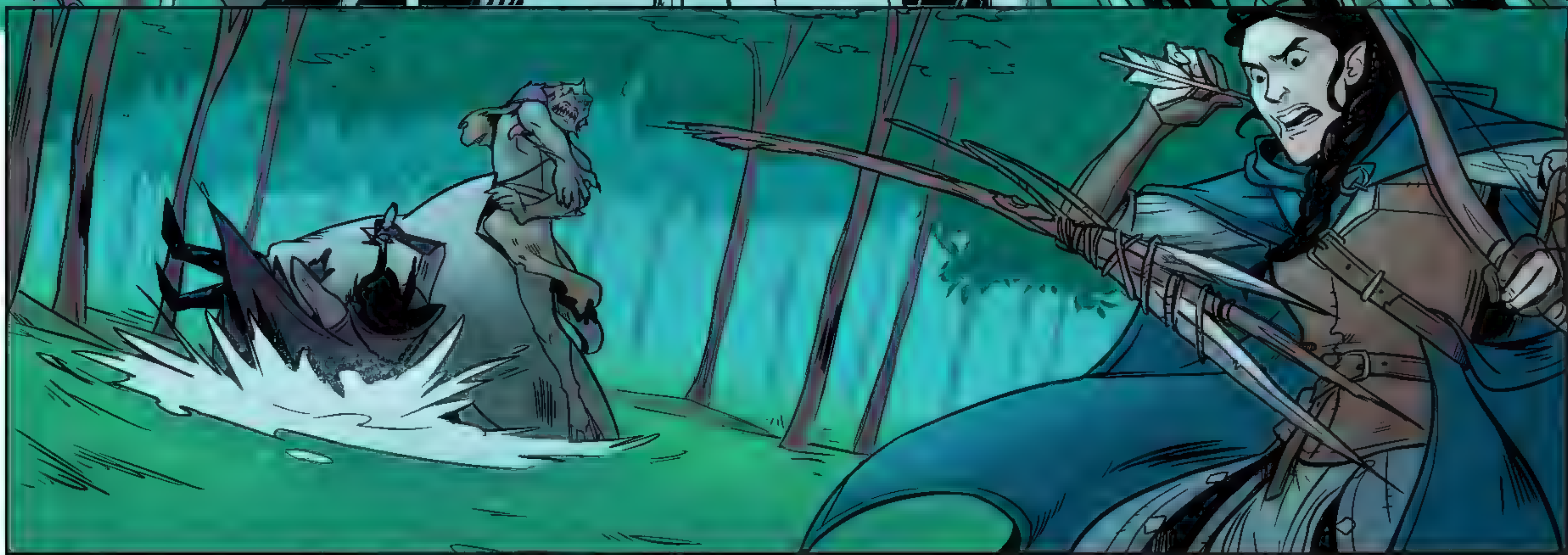


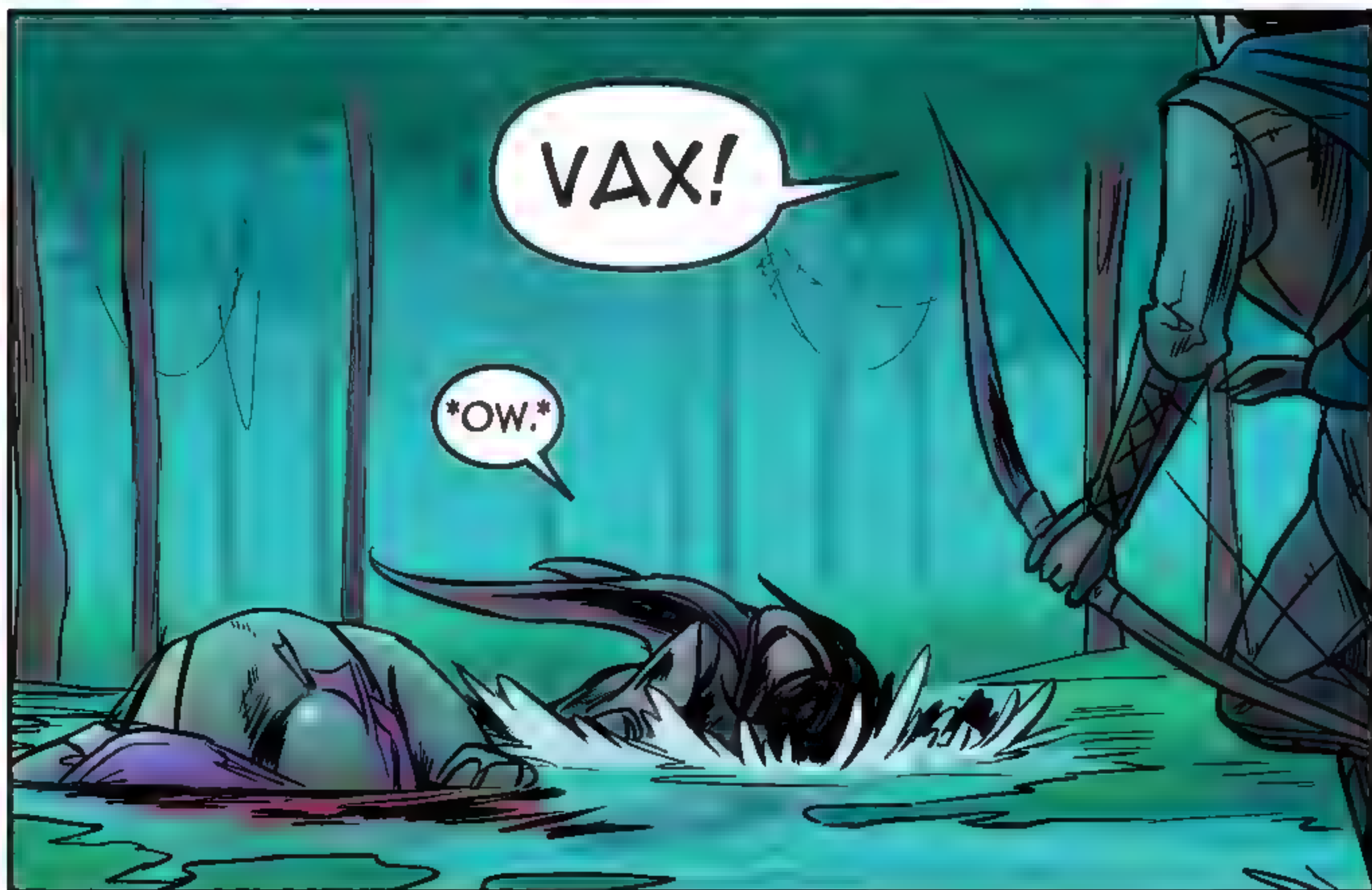
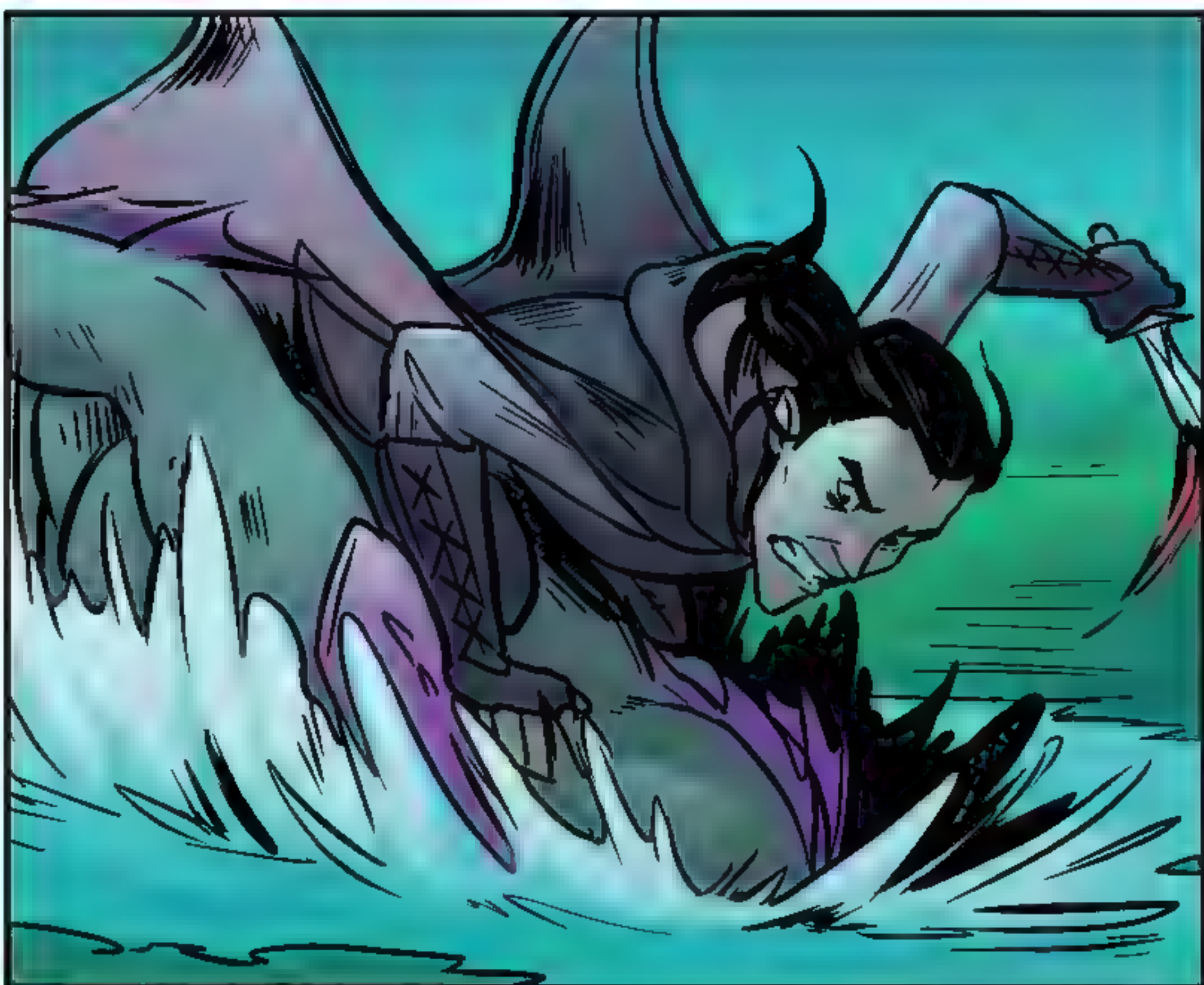
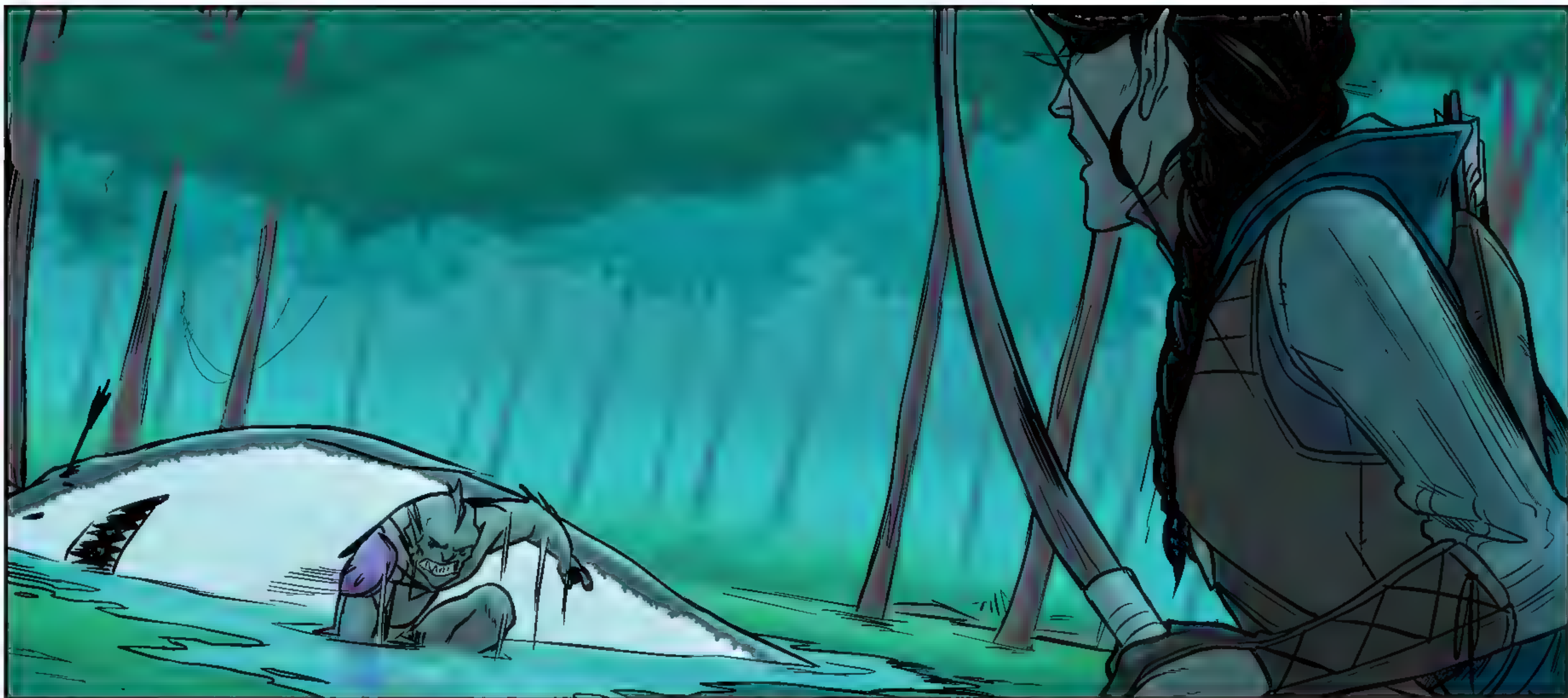
LET'S GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF THIS,
GET PAID, AND GET
OUT OF HERE.

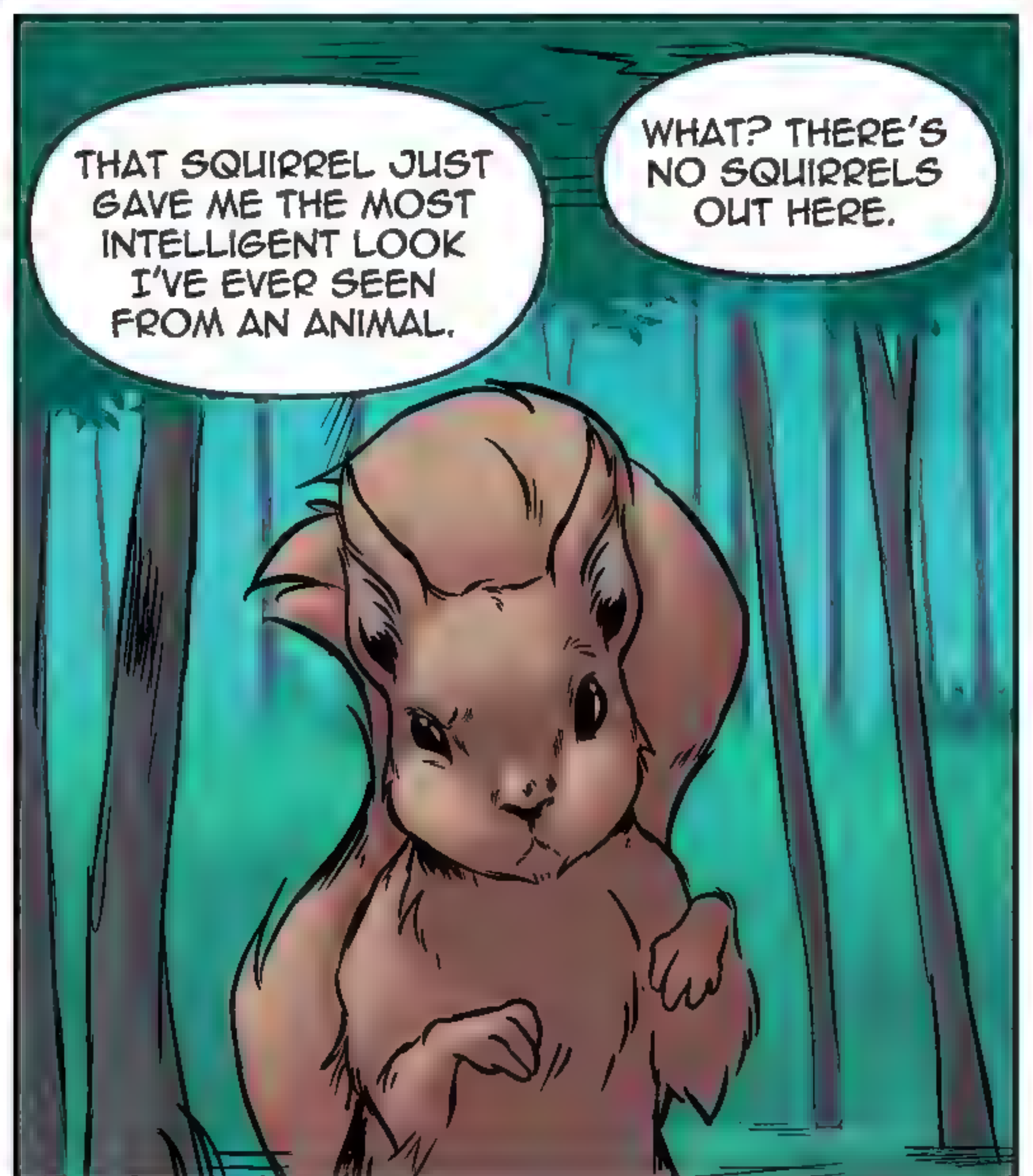
STILBEN
POPULATION: ~9,000
MAJOR TRADE HUB FOR
THE EASTERN COAST OF
TAL'DOREI. AKA 'THE
ROTTED LOT.'

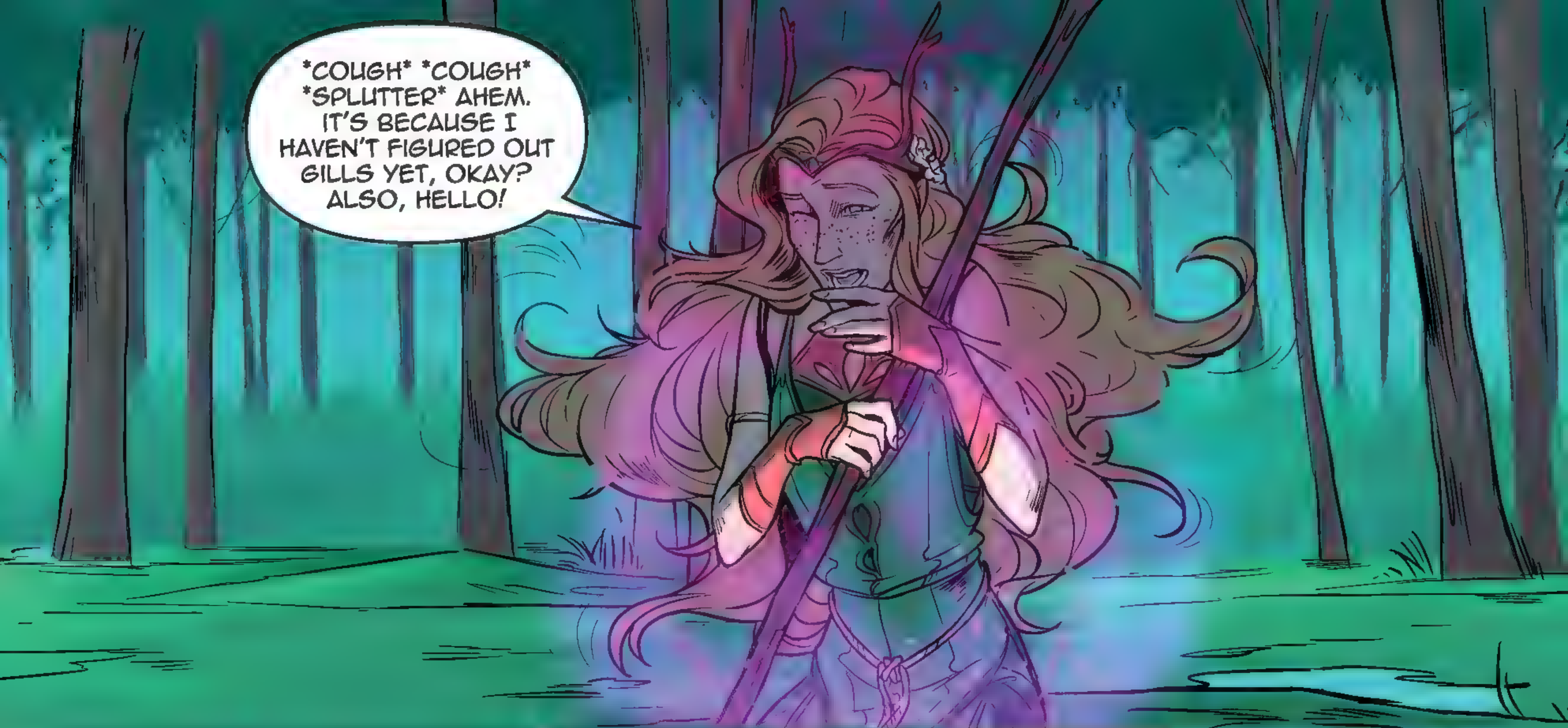












COUGH *COUGH*
SPLUTTER AHM.
IT'S BECAUSE I
HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT
GILLS YET, OKAY?
ALSO, HELLO!



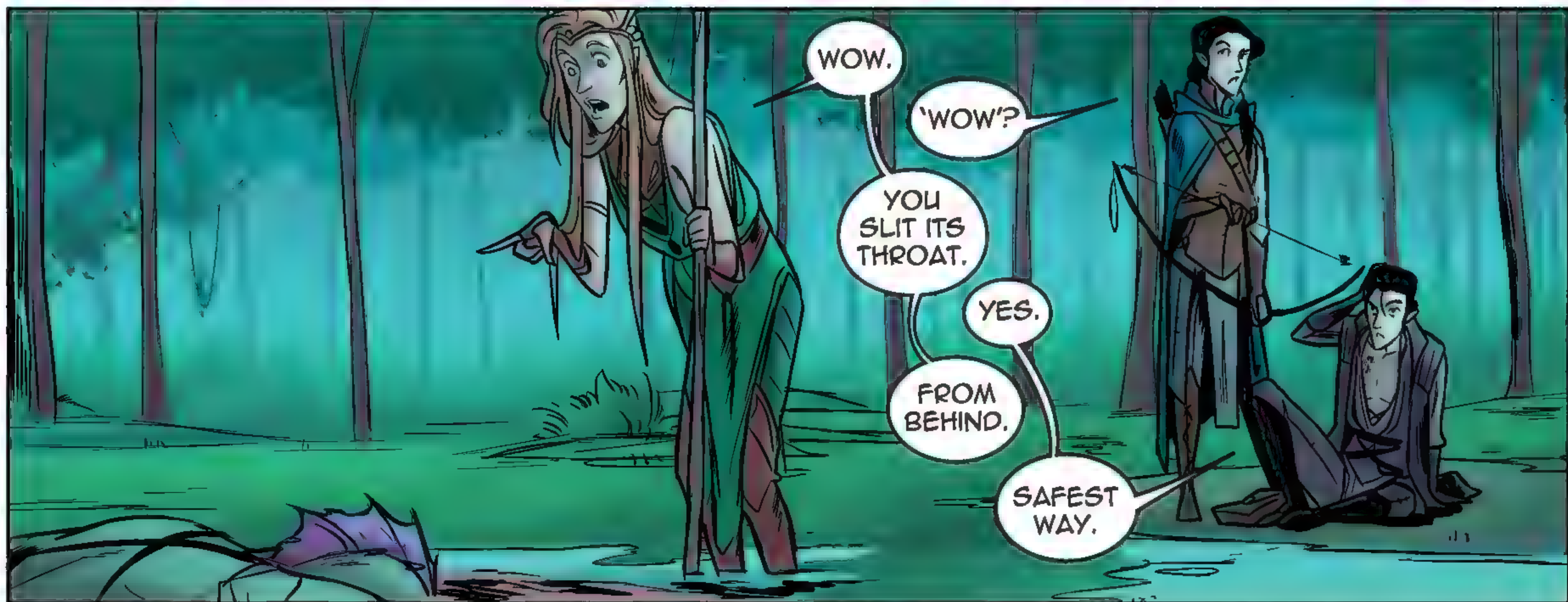
WHO ARE
YOU?

OW.



OH, I'M...NO,
I'M NOBODY.
I'M...IT'S NOT
IMPORTANT.
I'M KEYLETH.

I'M DYING. I'M DYING
AND I'M HALLUCINATING
A SQUIRREL WHO CAN
TURN INTO PEOPLE.



WOW.

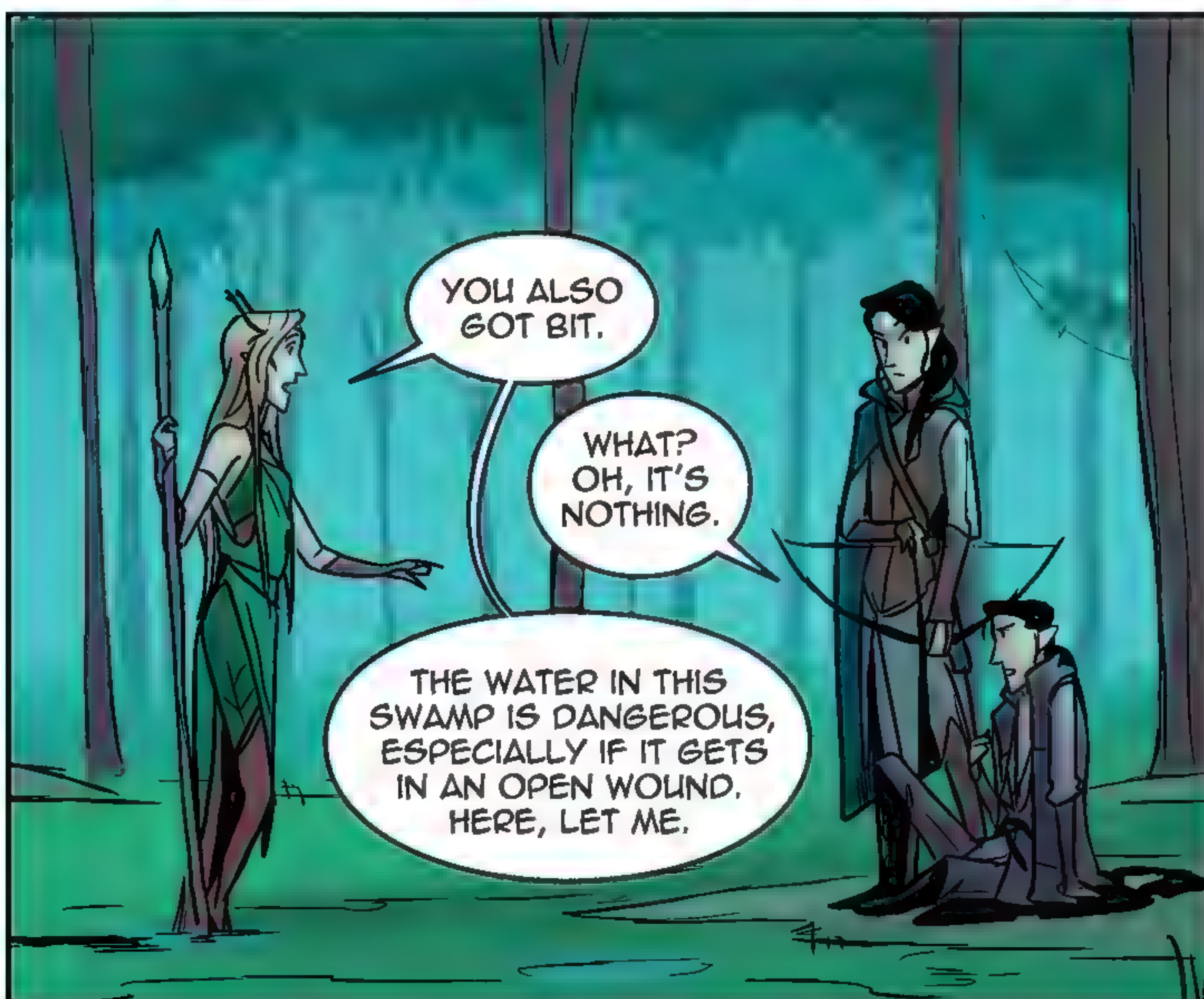
'WOW?'

YOU
SLIT ITS
THROAT.

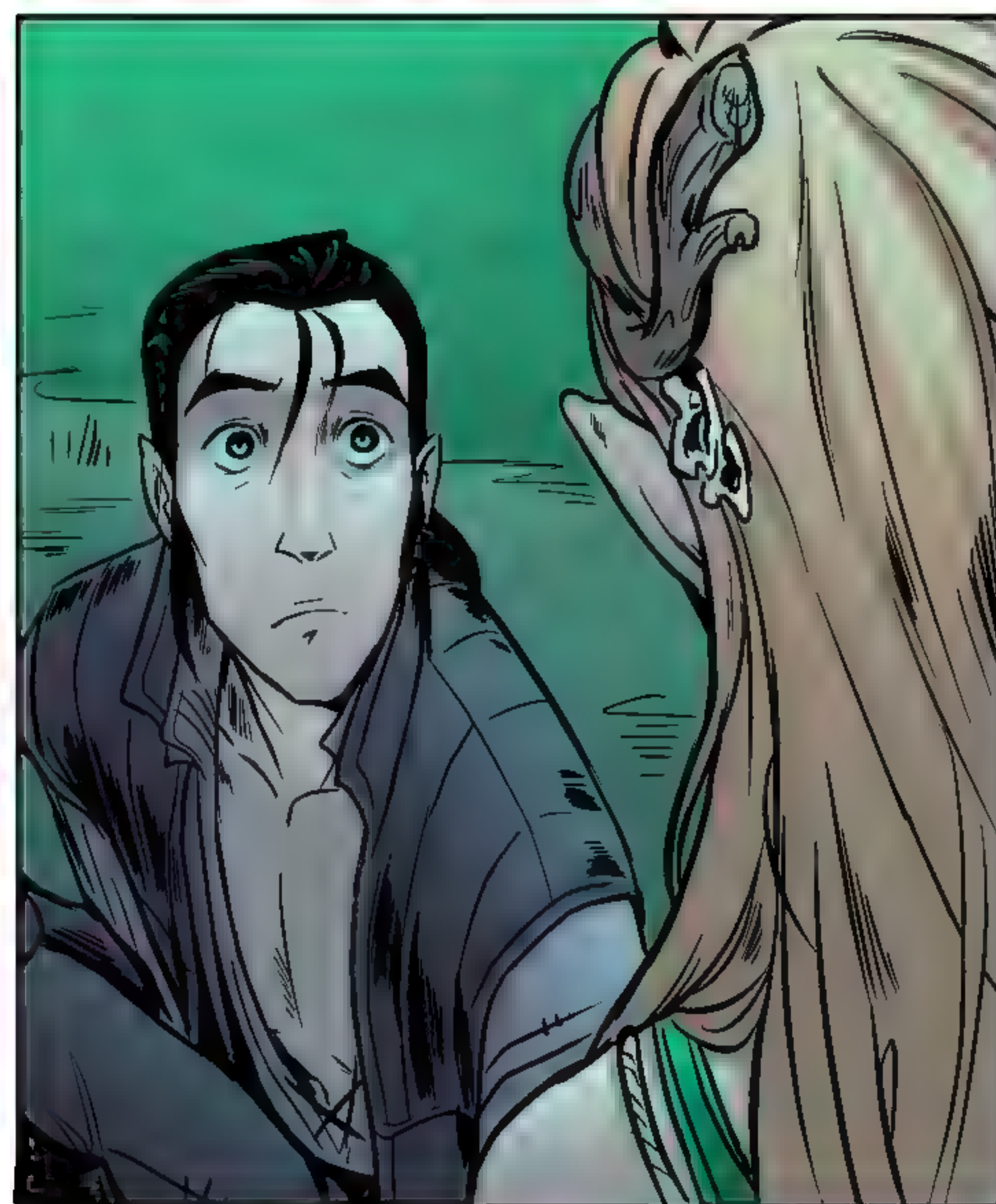
YES.

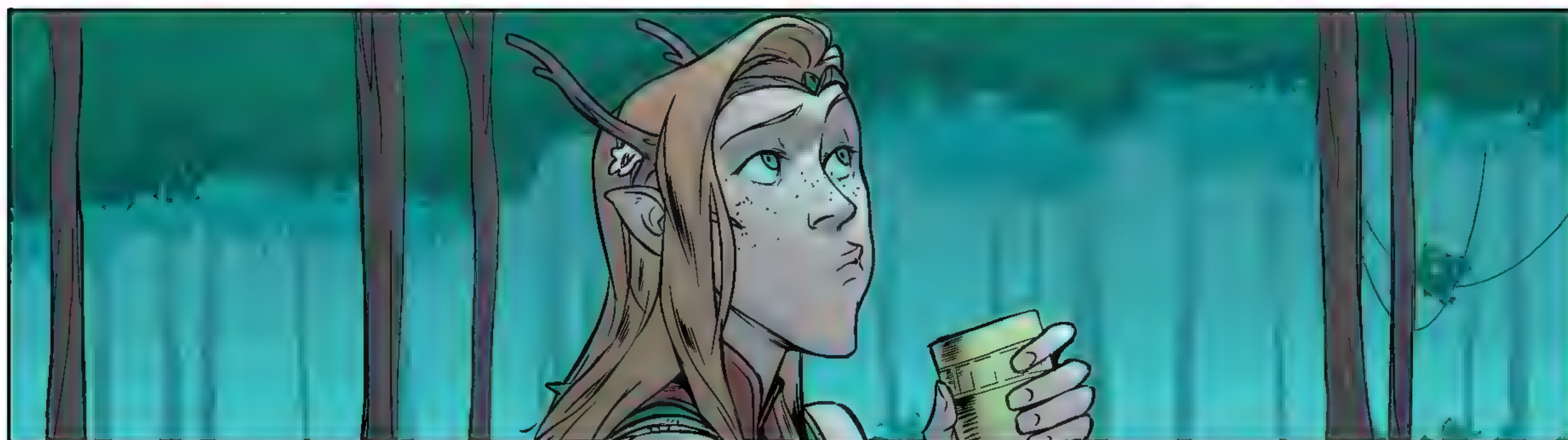
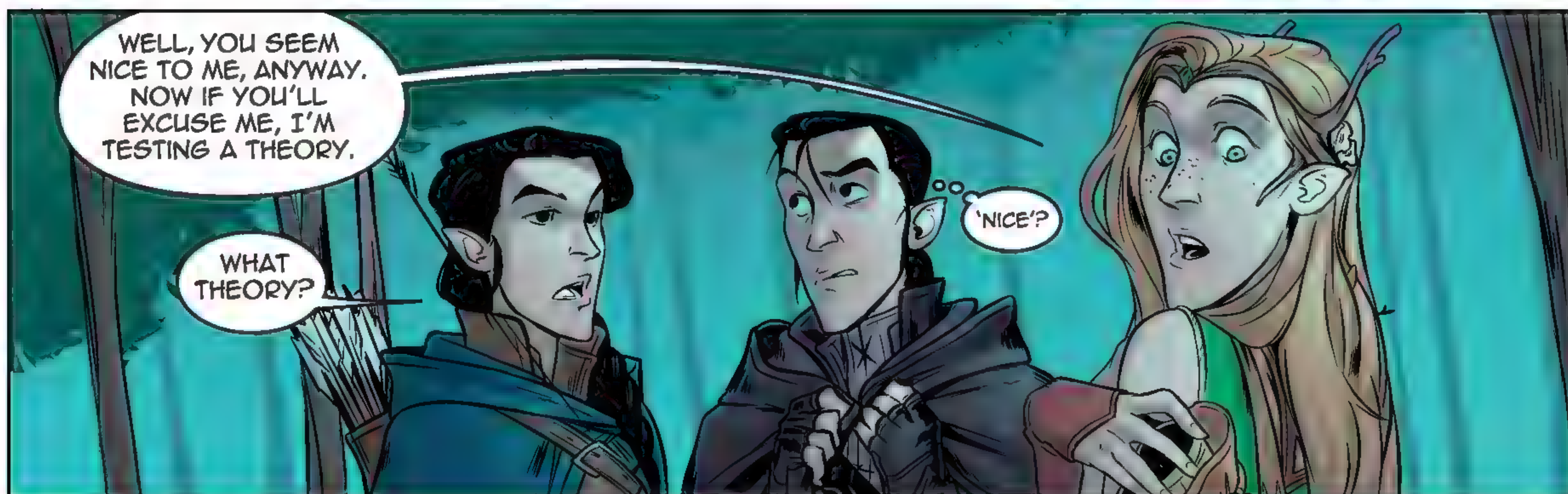
FROM
BEHIND.

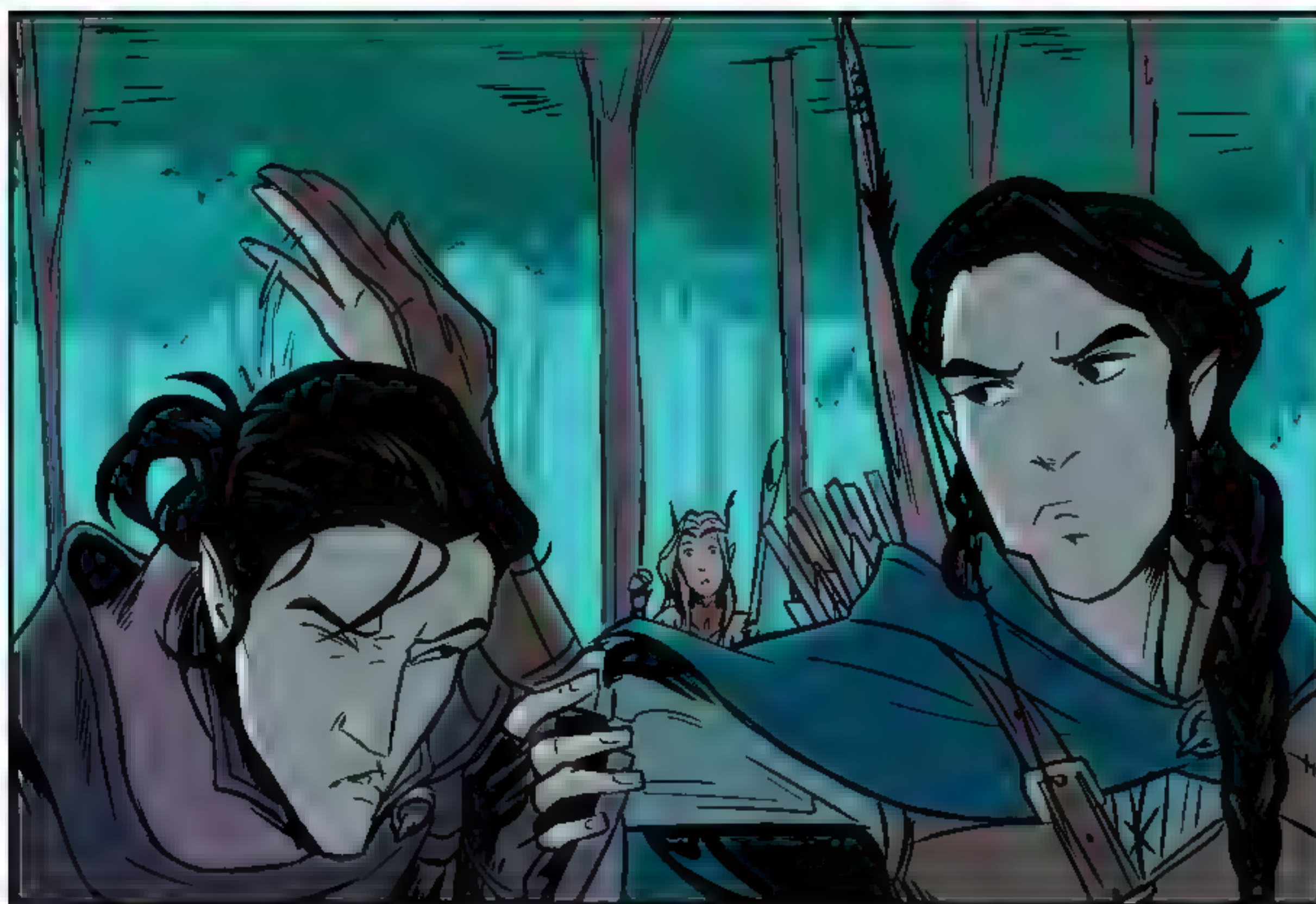
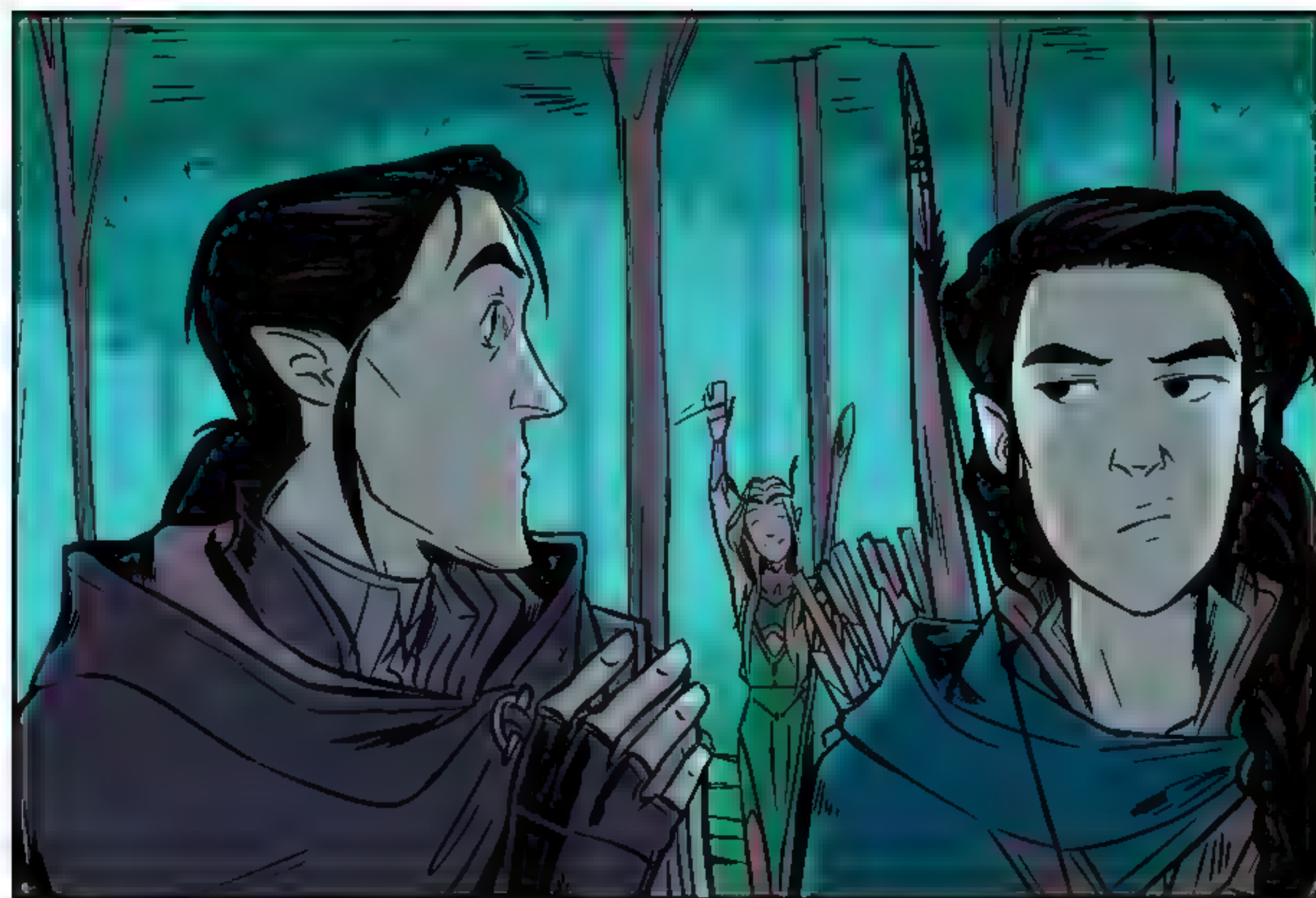
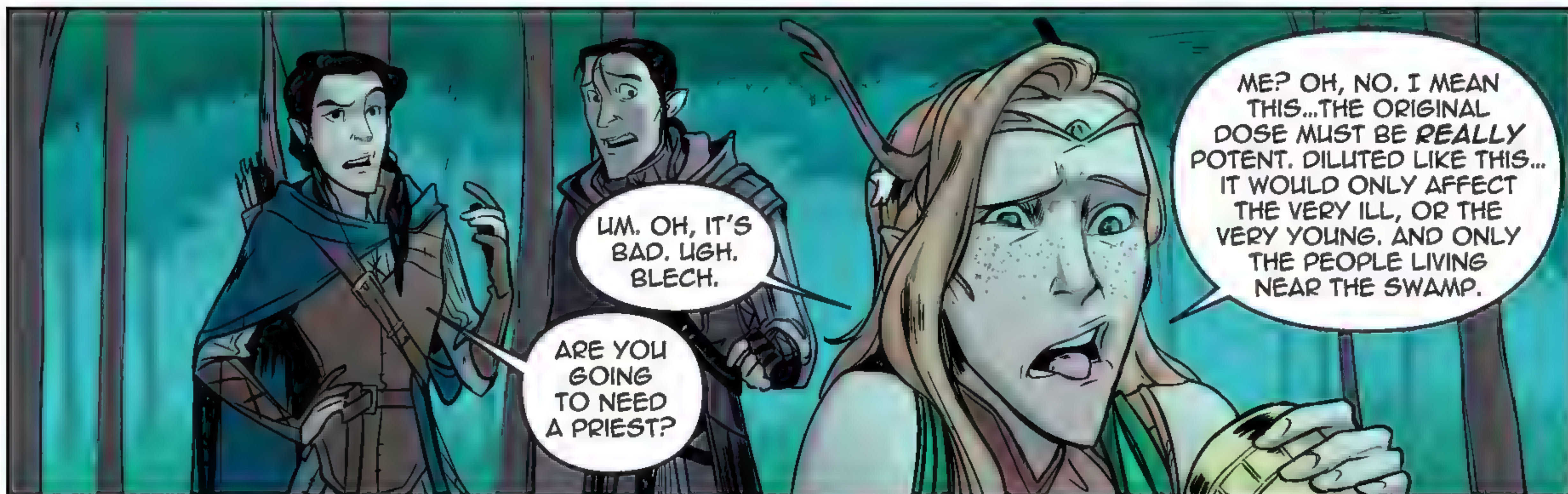
SAFEST
WAY.



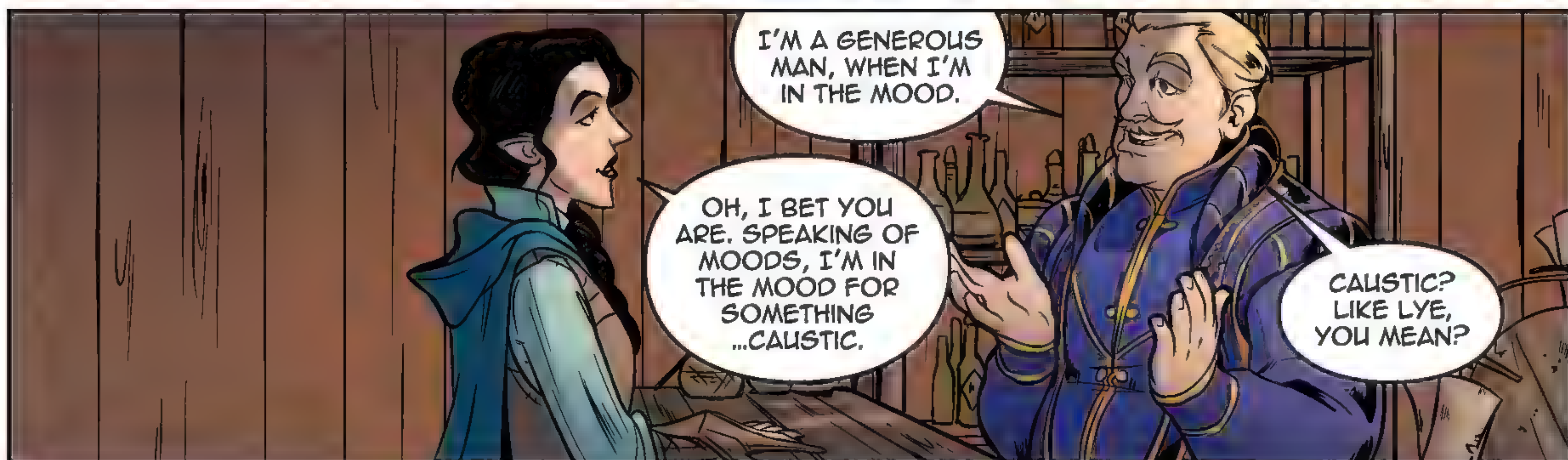




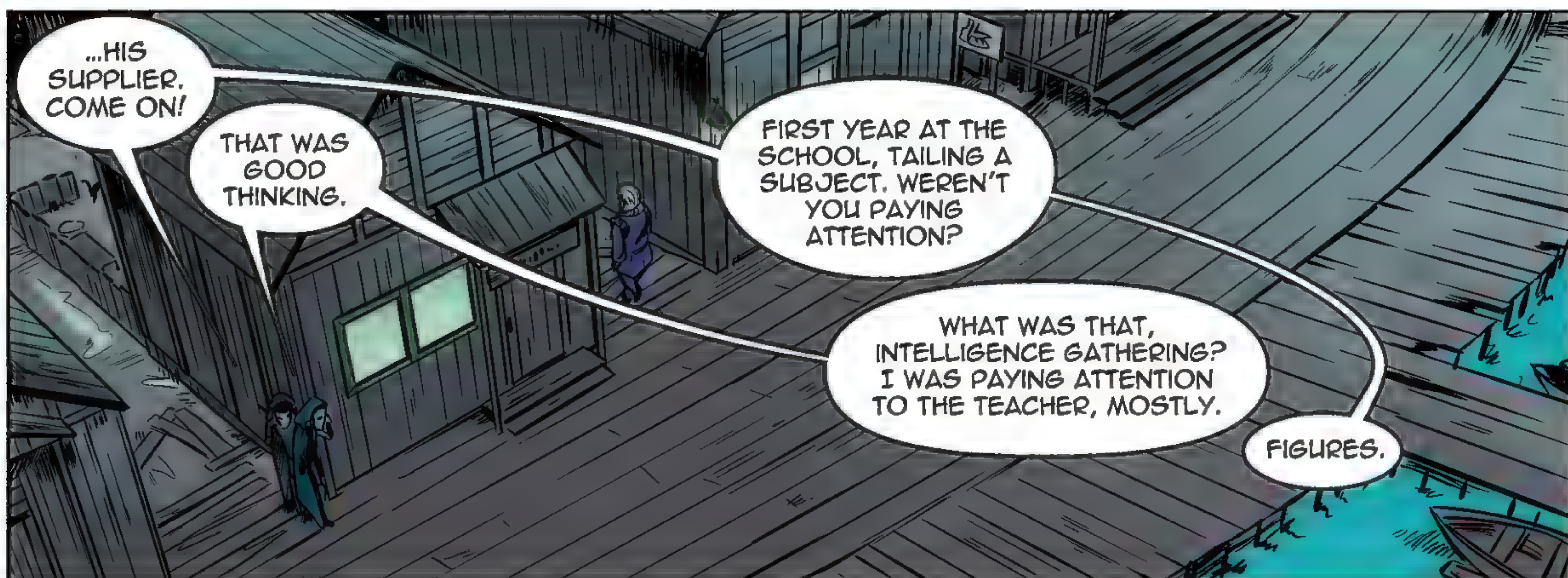
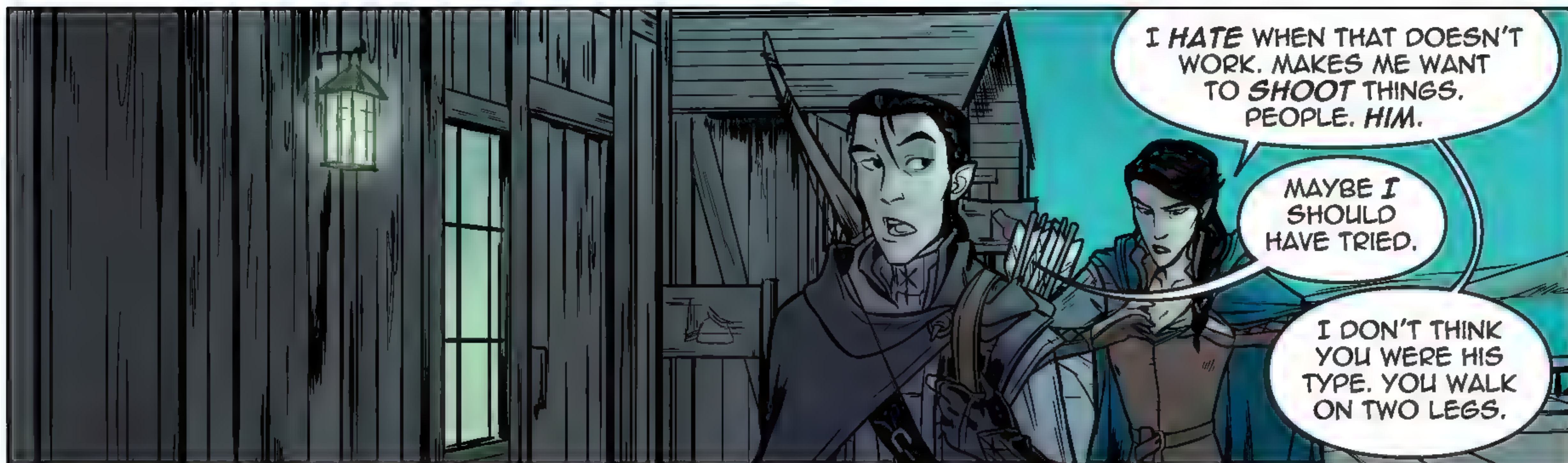












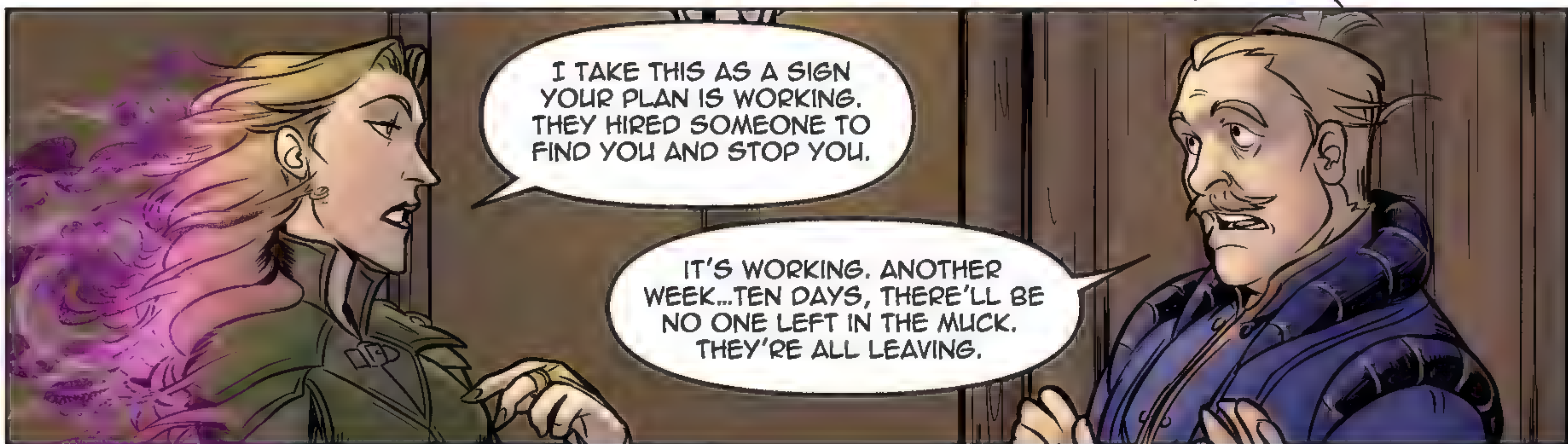


HELLO?



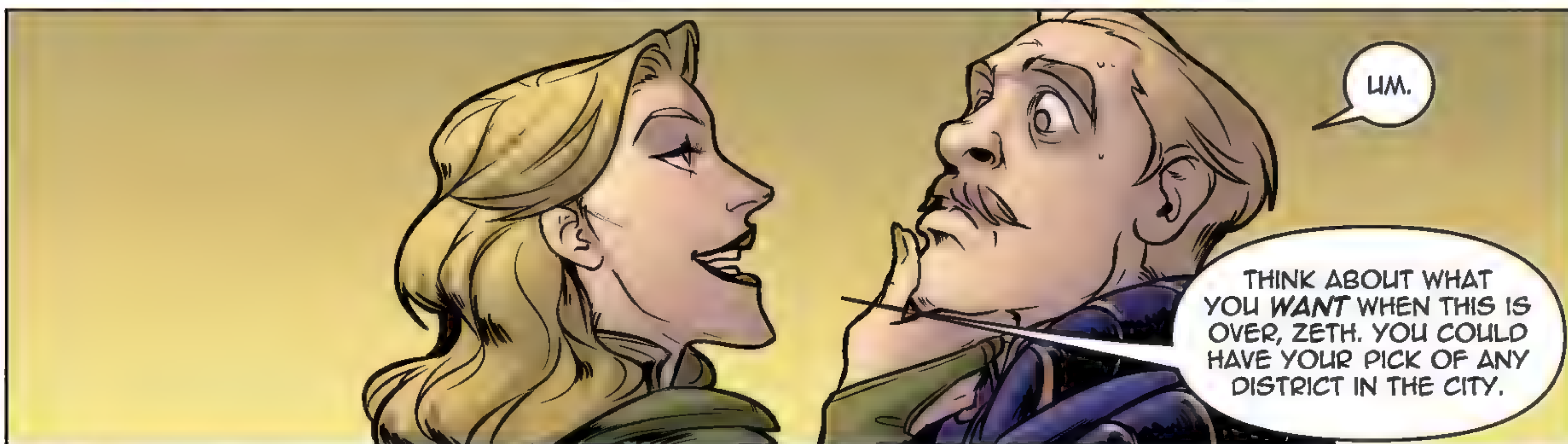
YOU WERE FOLLOWED.

AAAH!
HOW DID YOU...?



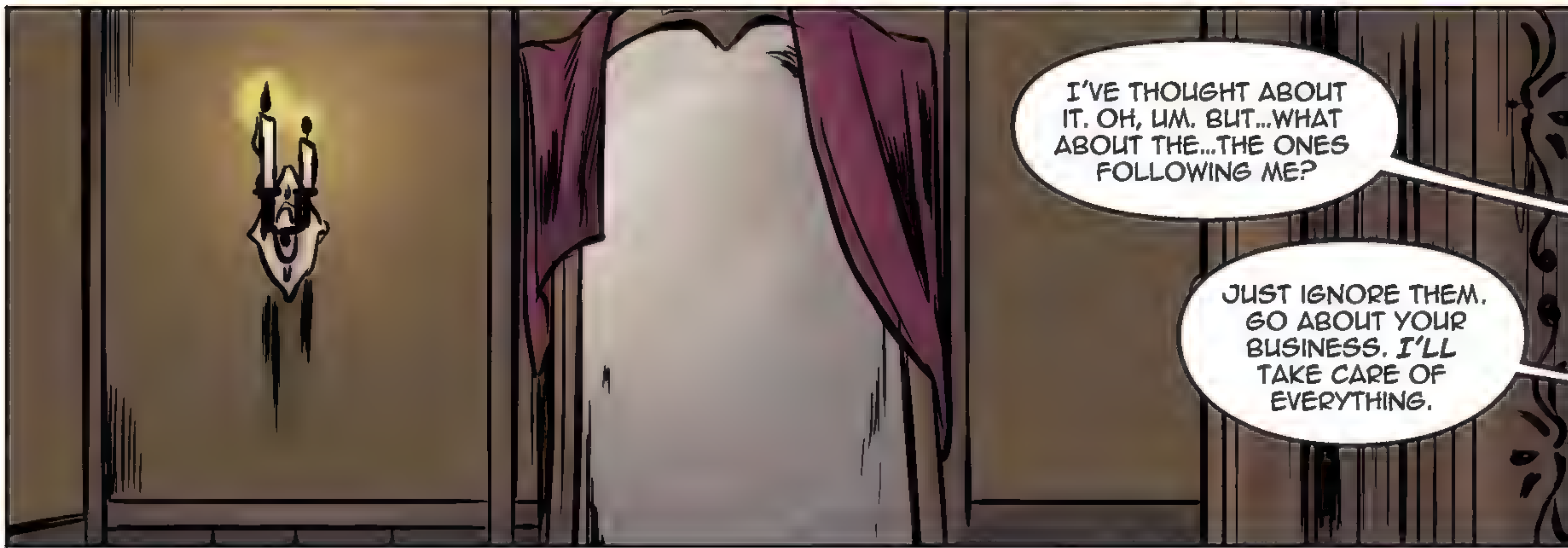
I TAKE THIS AS A SIGN
YOUR PLAN IS WORKING.
THEY HIRED SOMEONE TO
FIND YOU AND STOP YOU.

IT'S WORKING. ANOTHER
WEEK...TEN DAYS, THERE'LL BE
NO ONE LEFT IN THE MUCK.
THEY'RE ALL LEAVING.



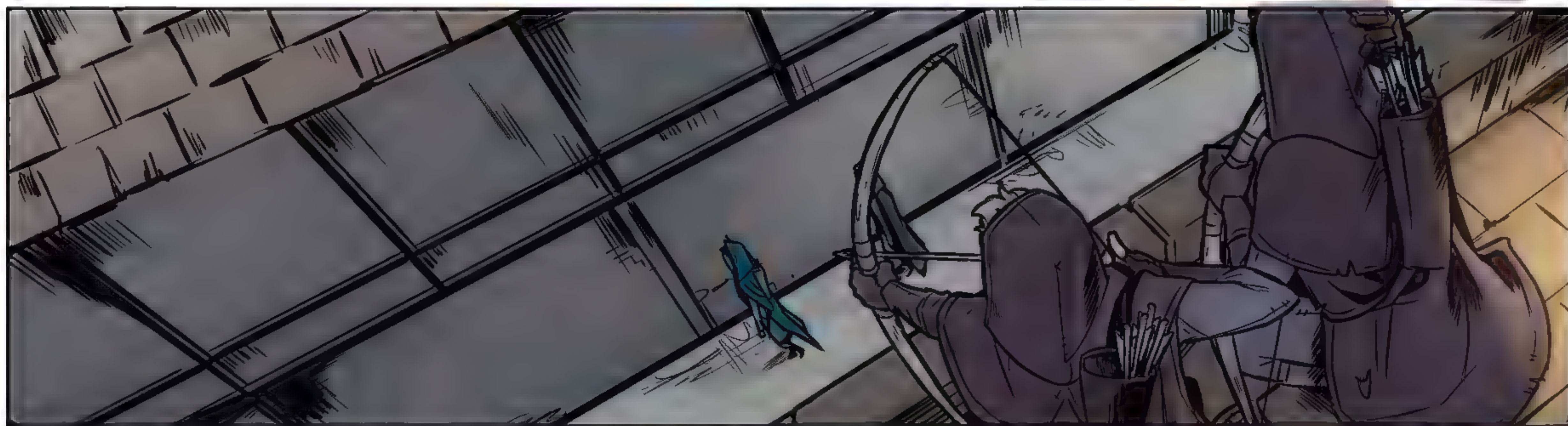
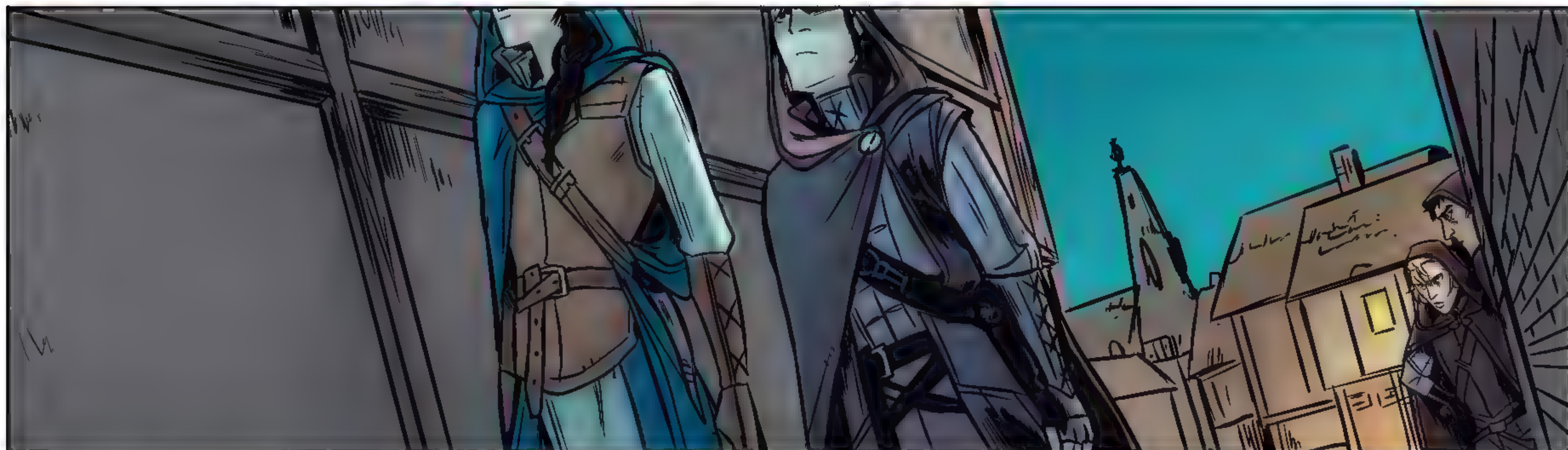
UM.

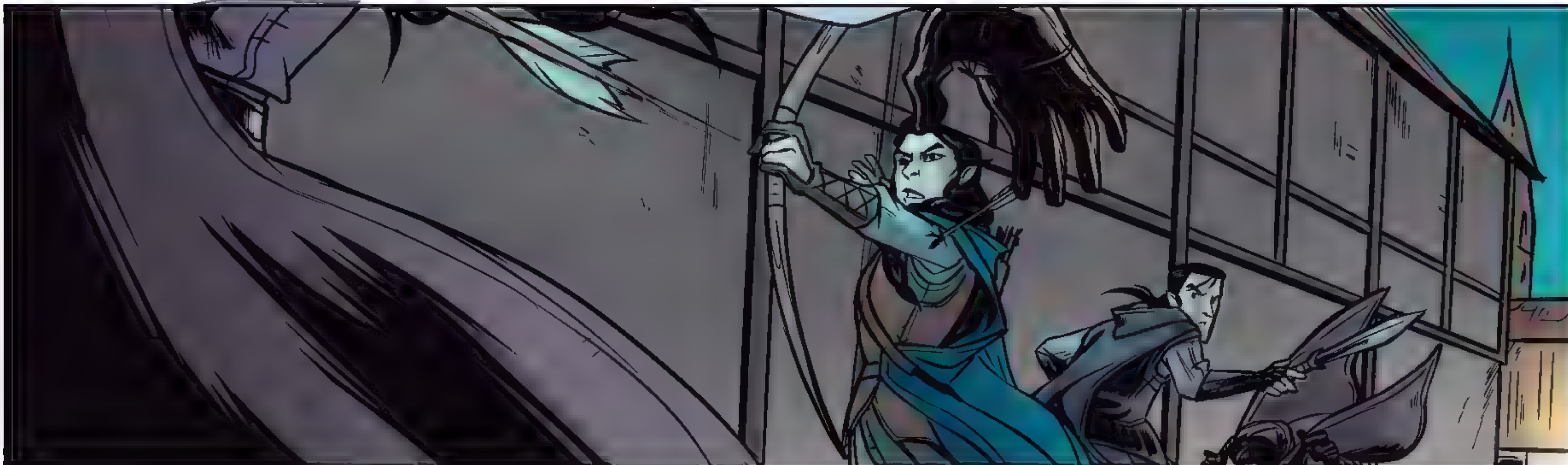
THINK ABOUT WHAT
YOU WANT WHEN THIS IS
OVER, ZETH. YOU COULD
HAVE YOUR PICK OF ANY
DISTRICT IN THE CITY.

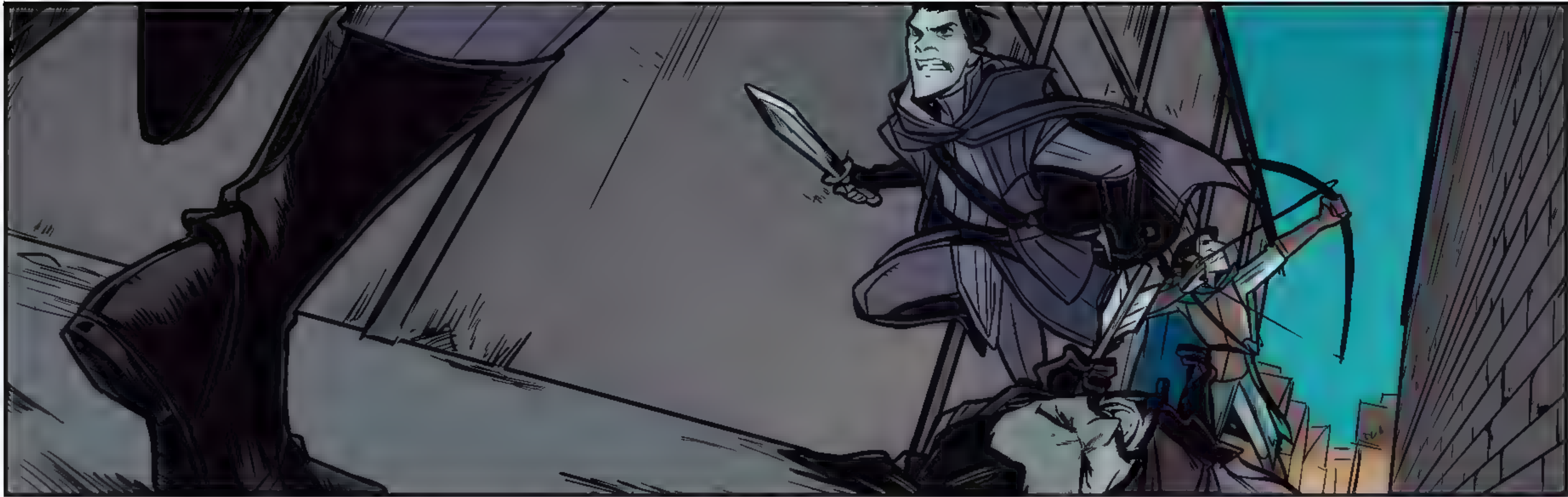


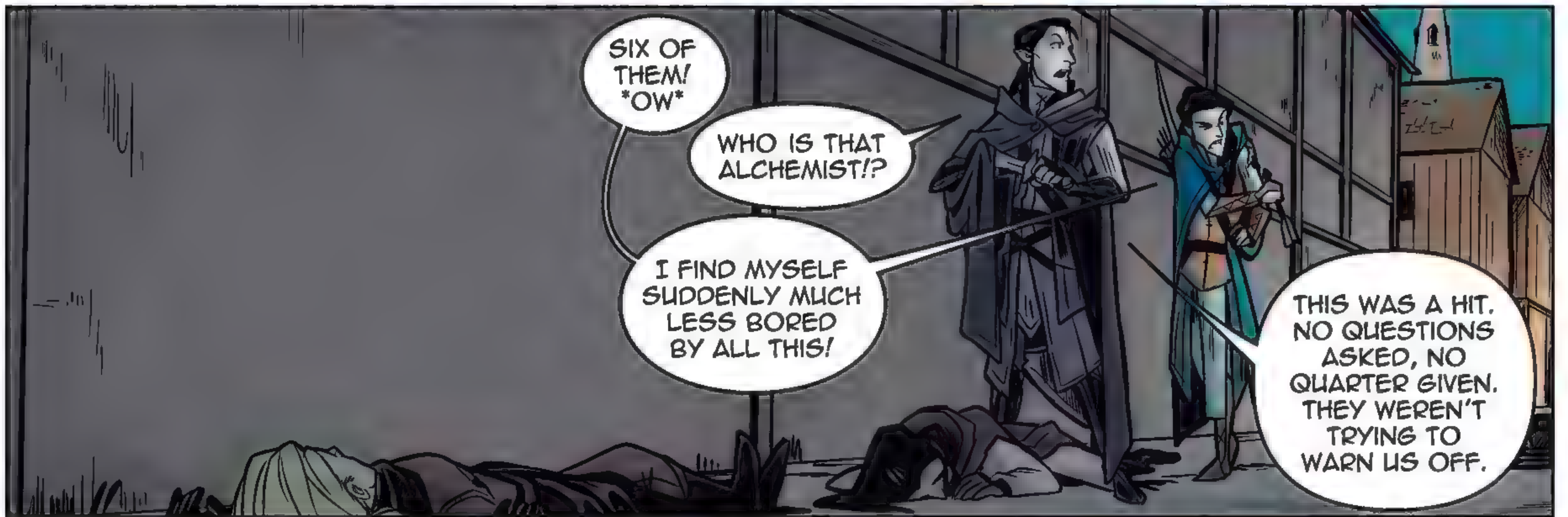
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT
IT. OH, UM. BUT...WHAT
ABOUT THE...THE ONES
FOLLOWING ME?

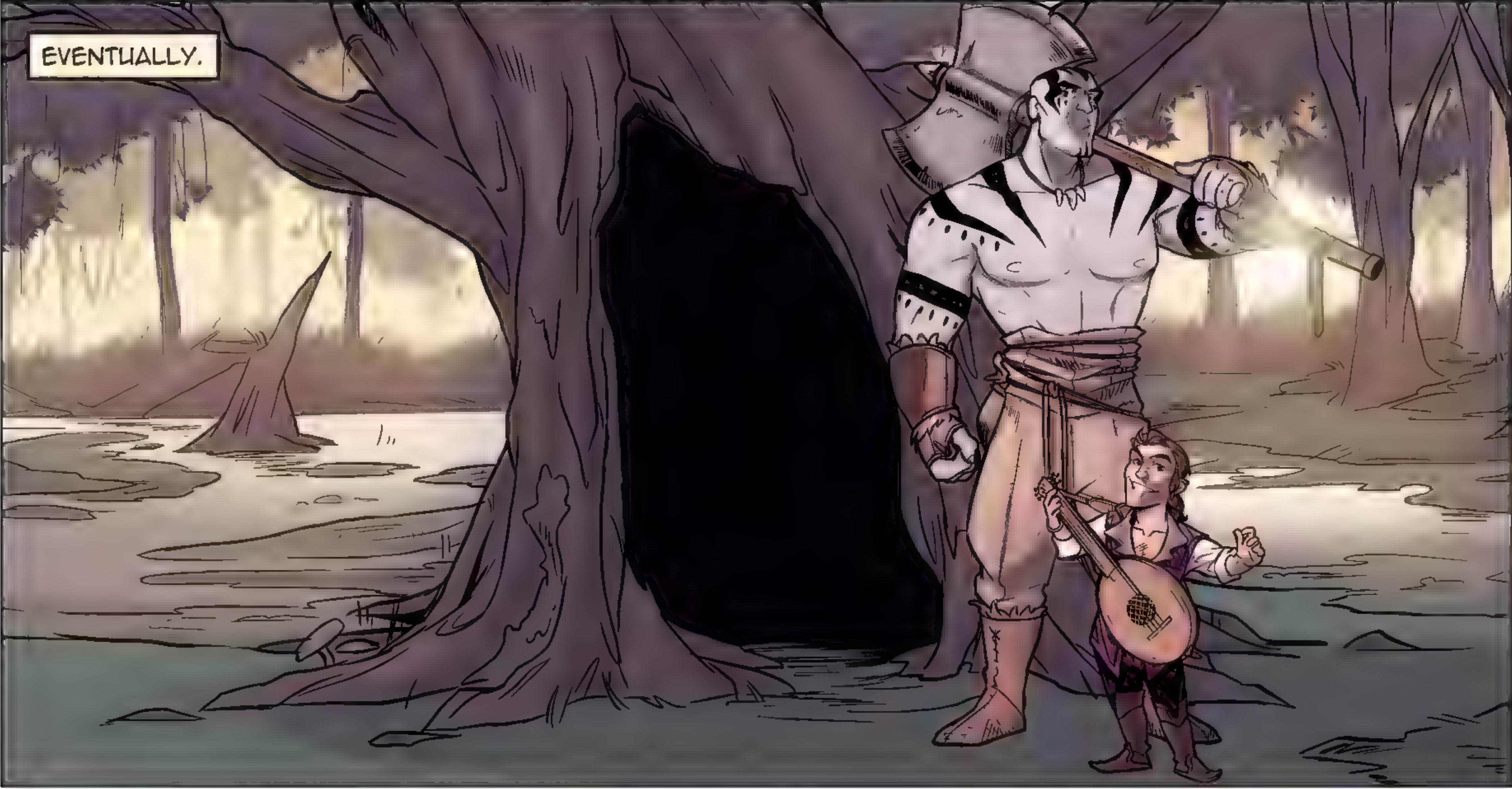
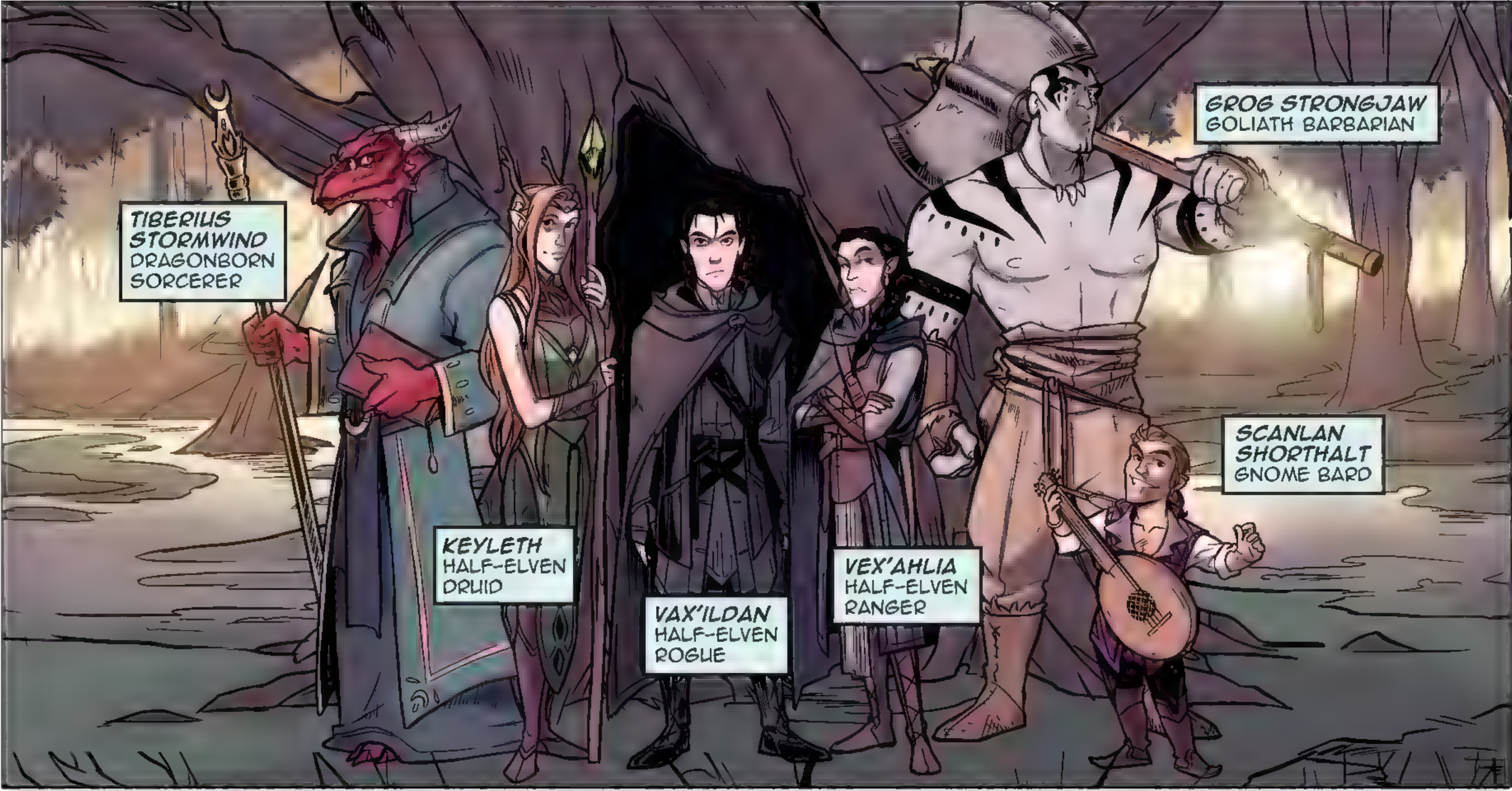
JUST IGNORE THEM.
GO ABOUT YOUR
BUSINESS. I'LL
TAKE CARE OF
EVERYTHING.

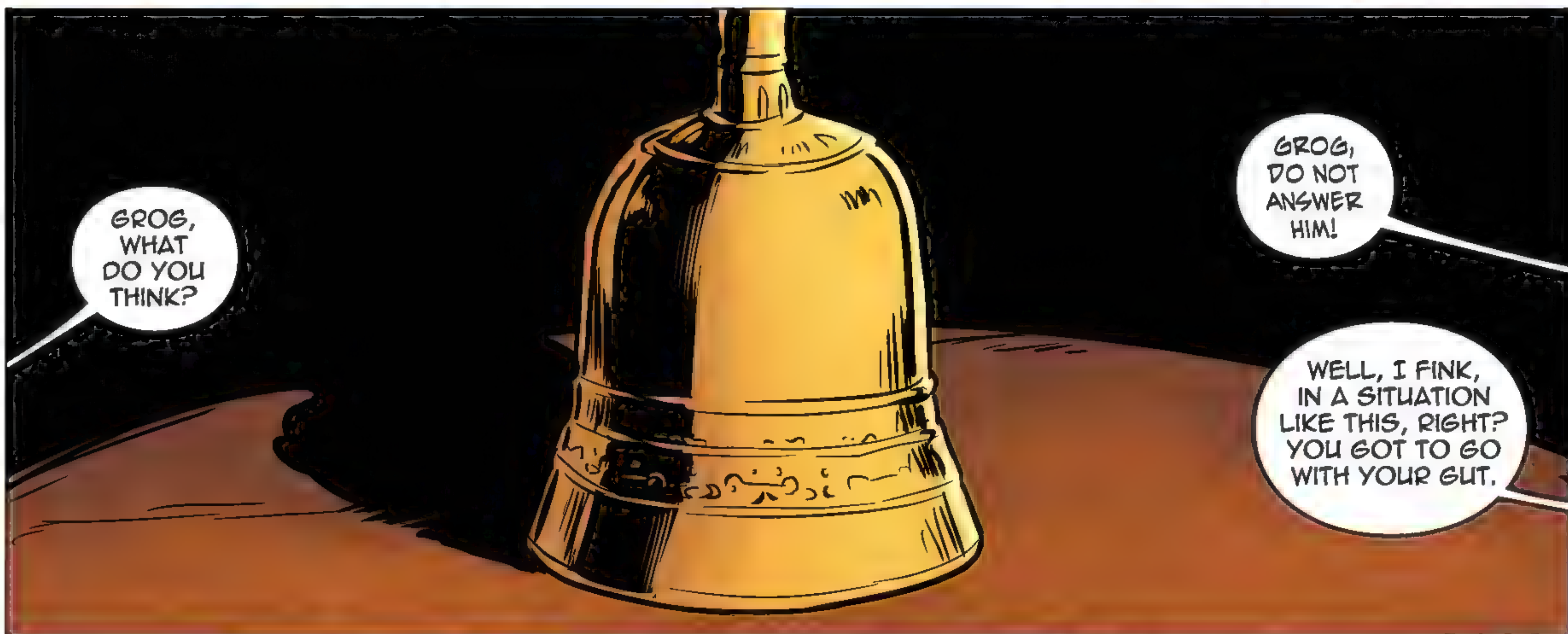
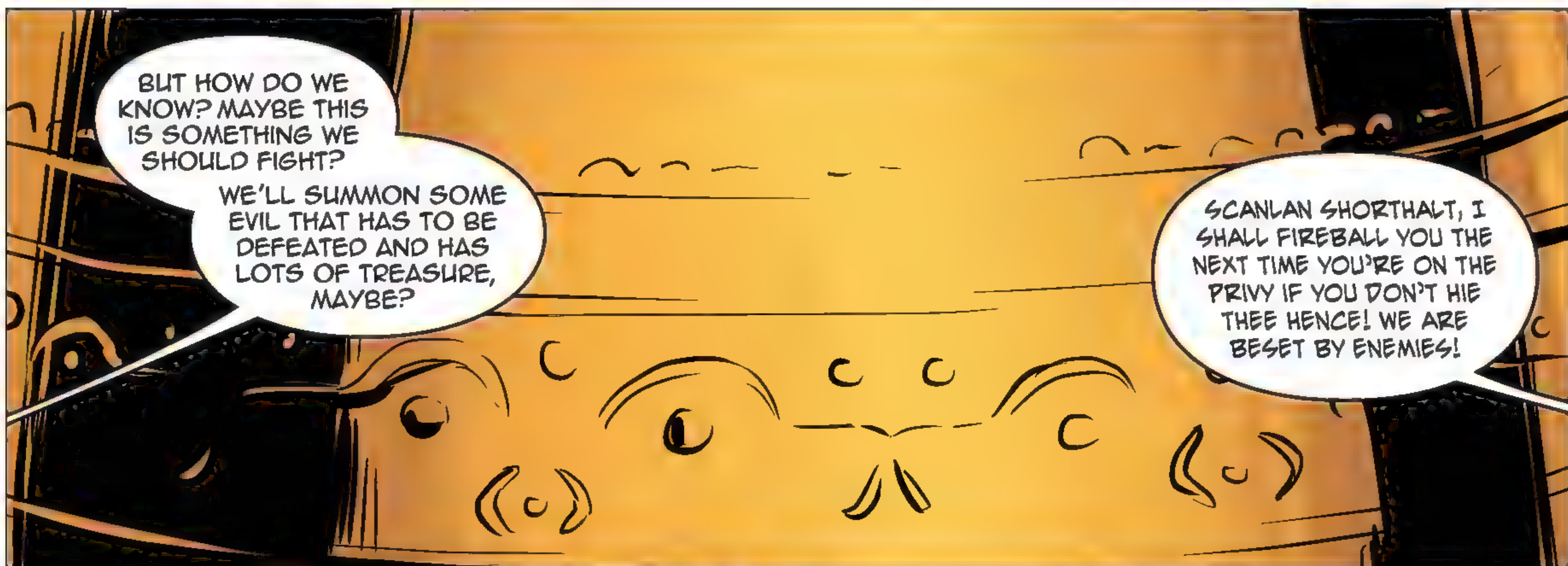


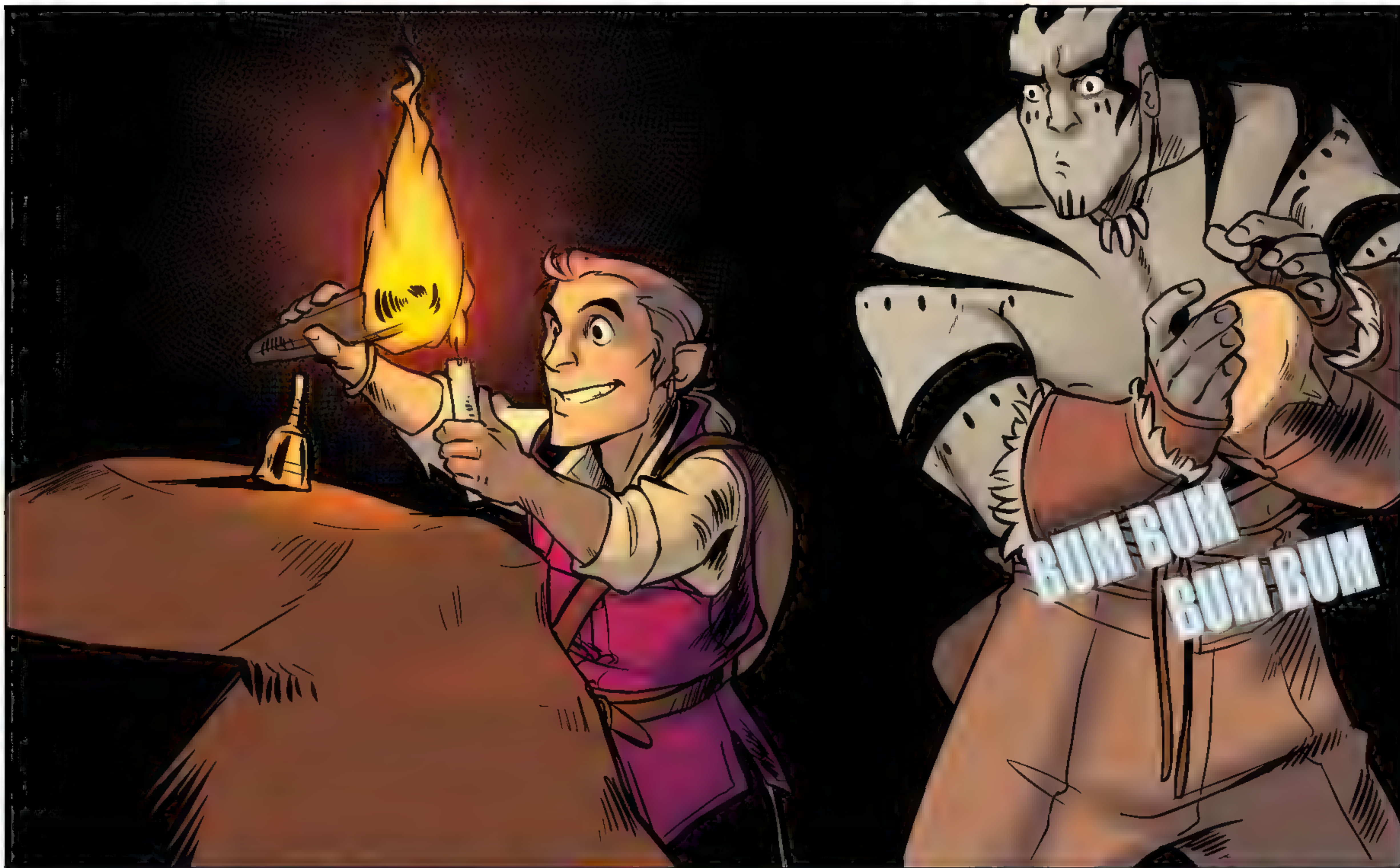


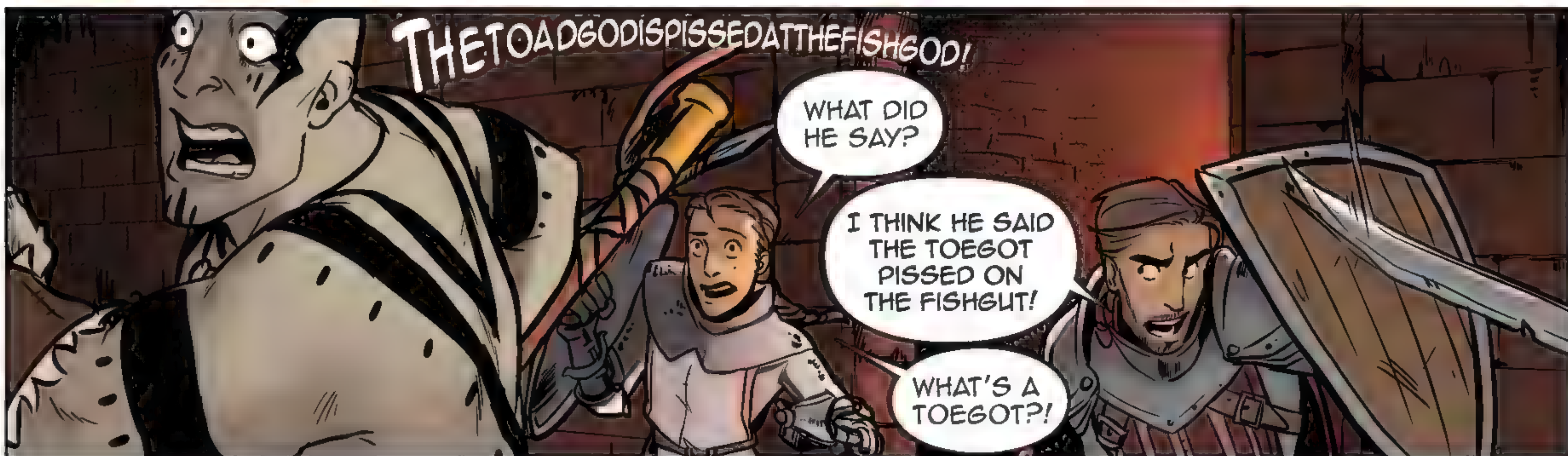
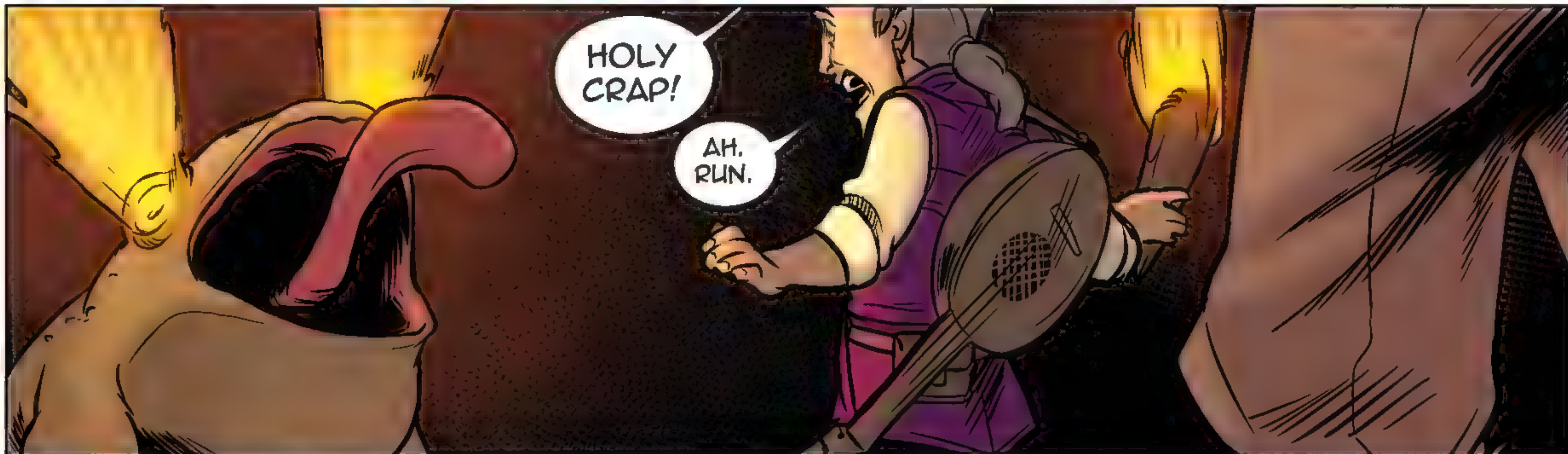
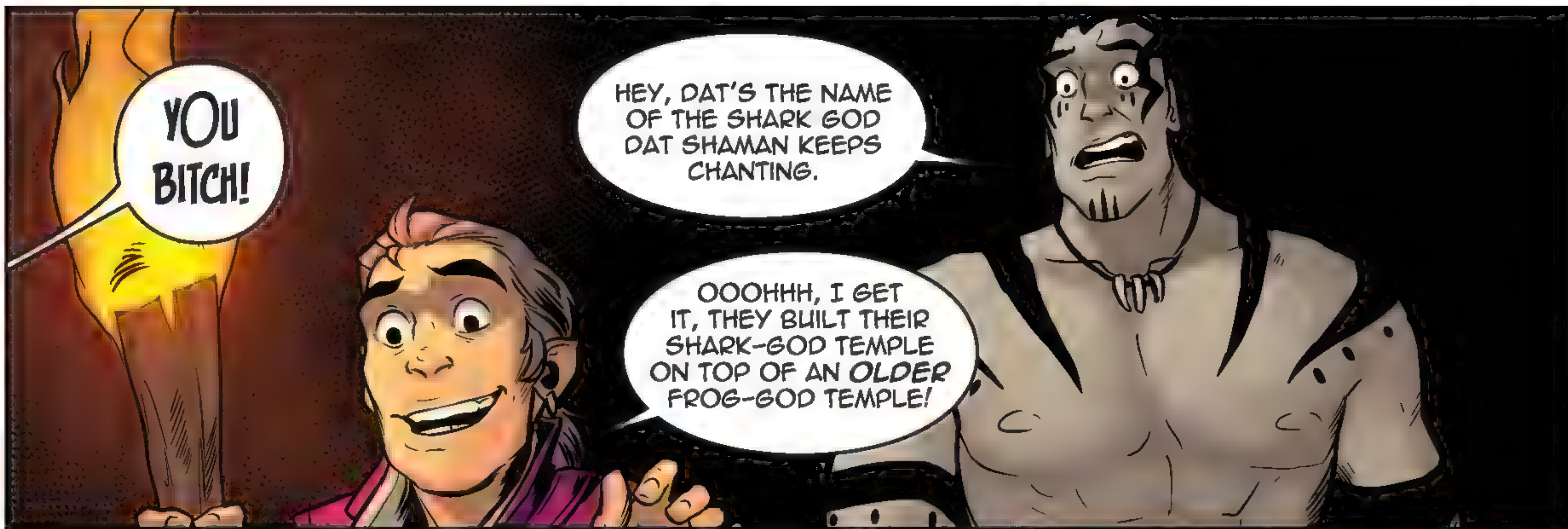




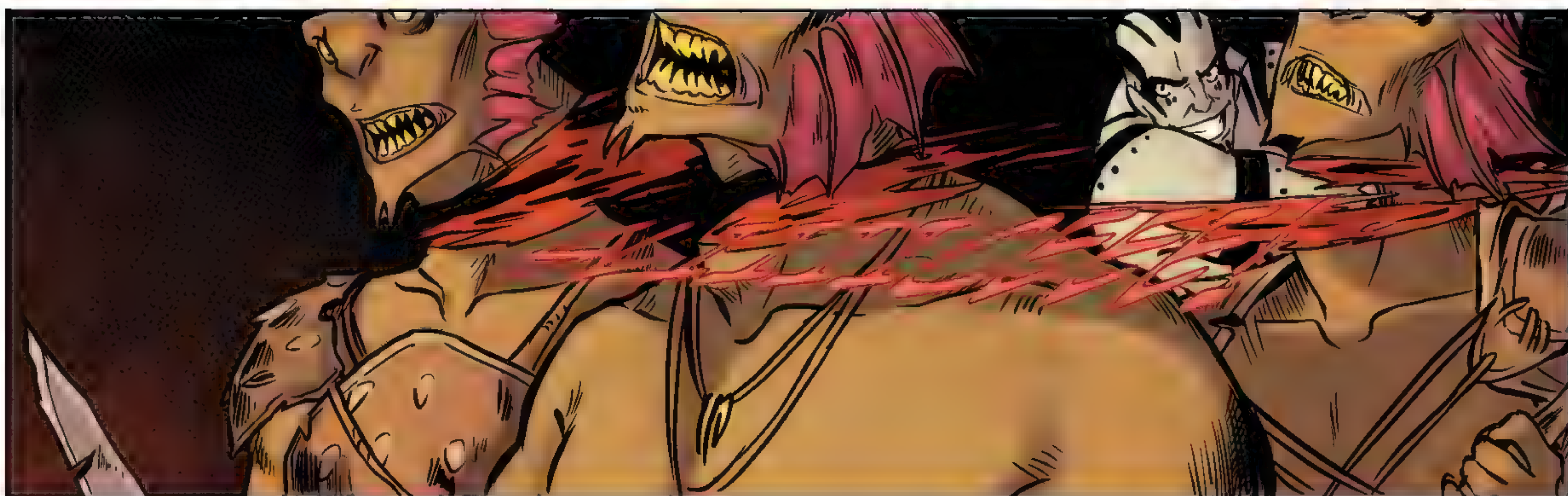
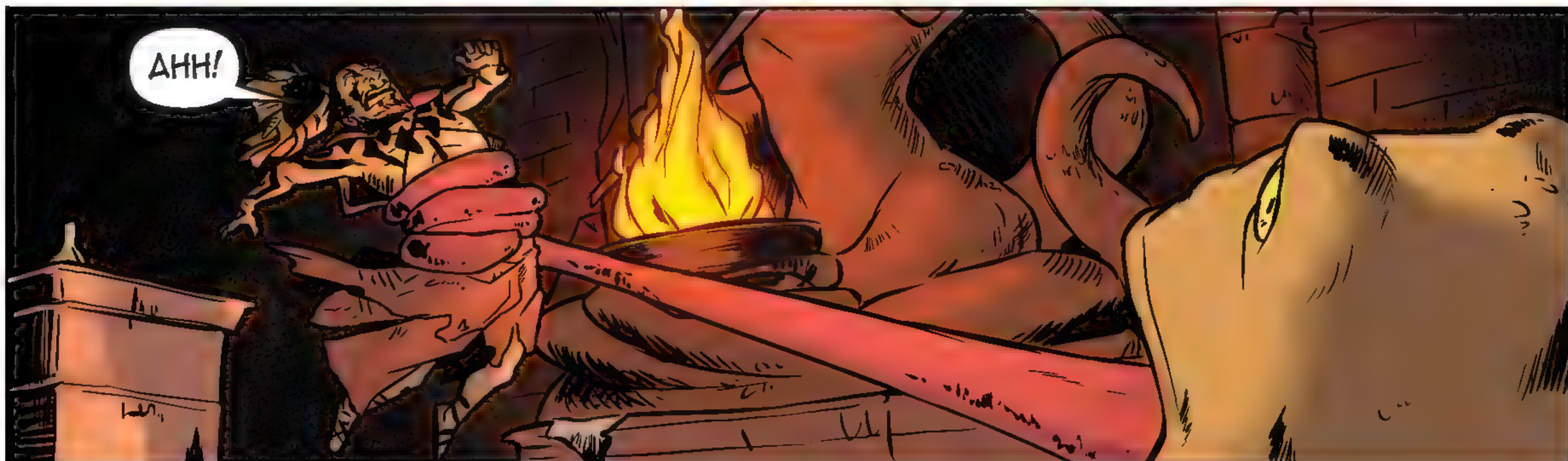


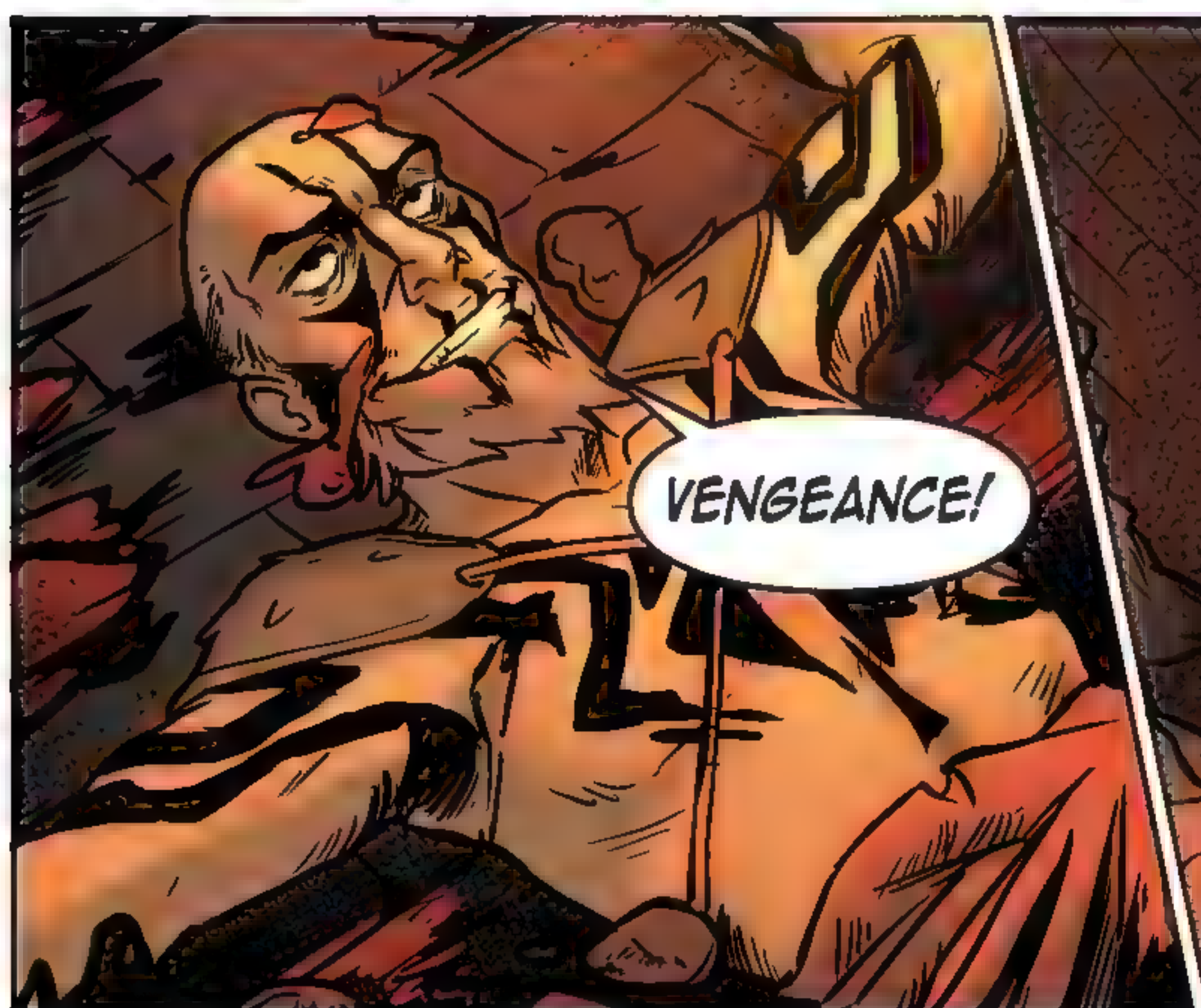






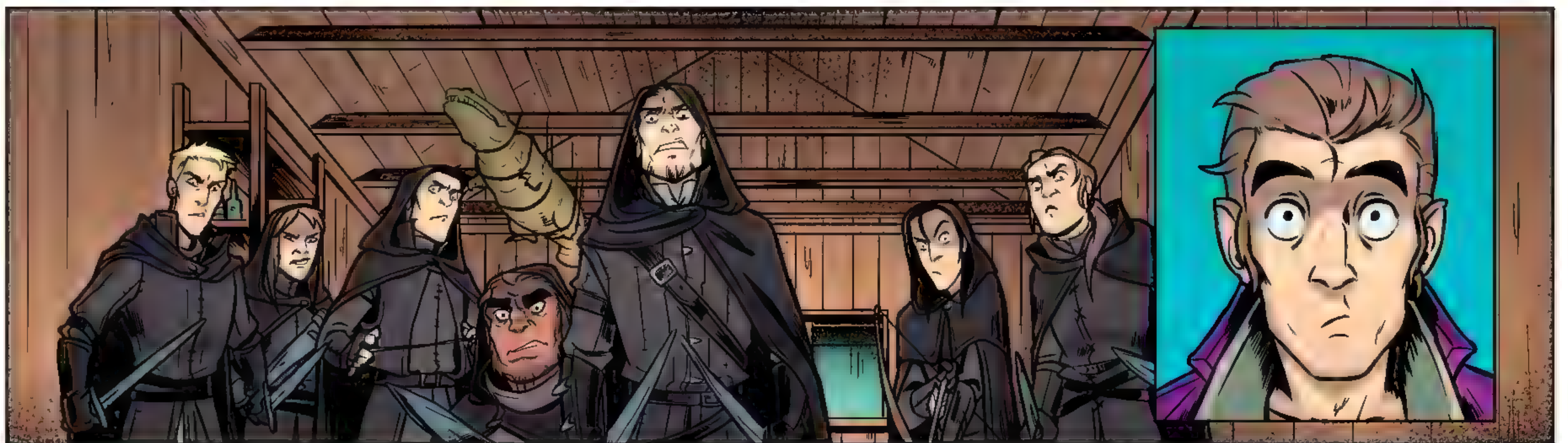
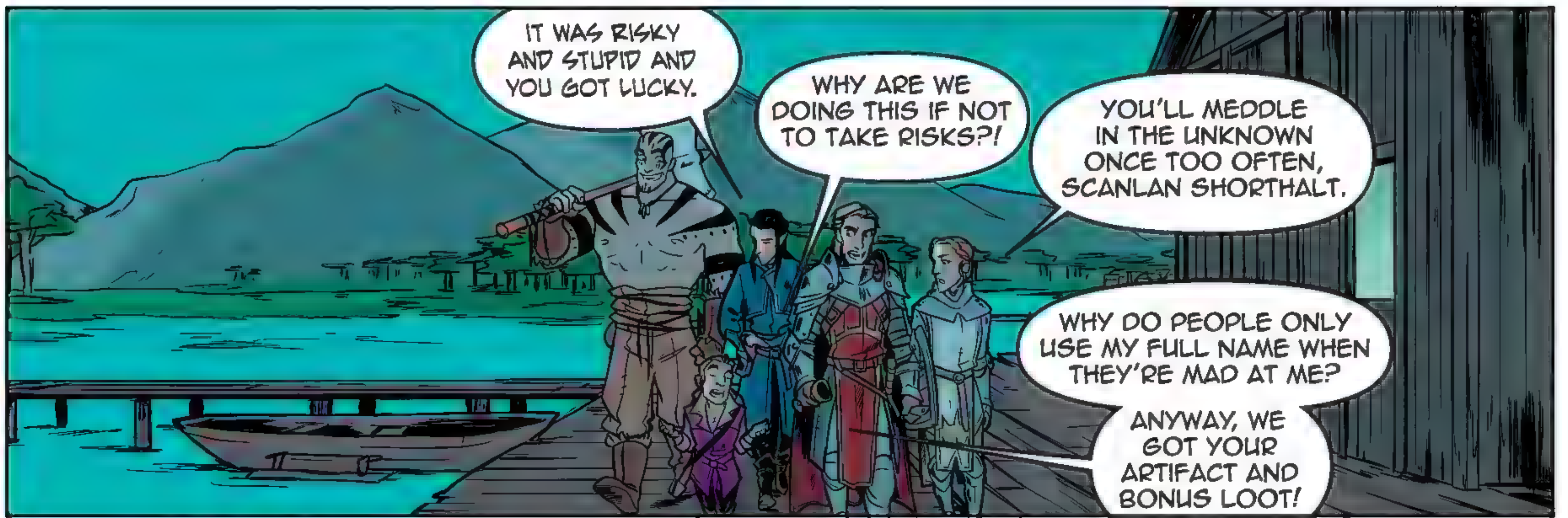


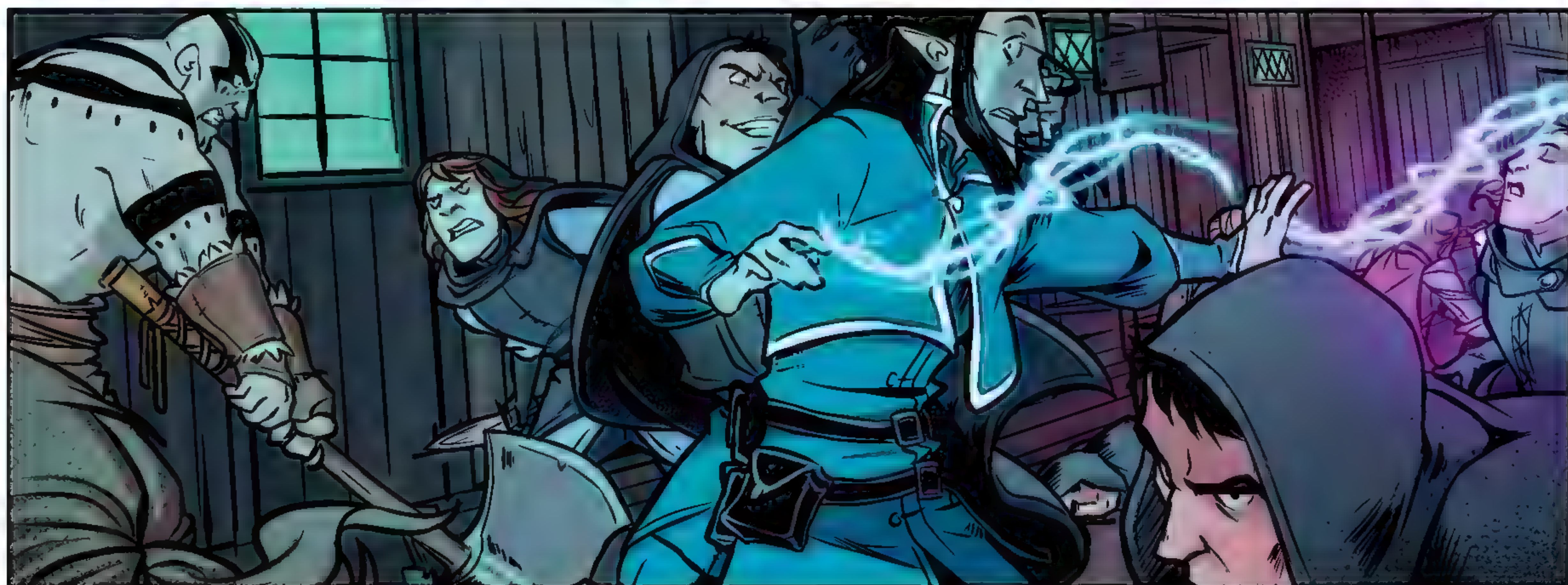
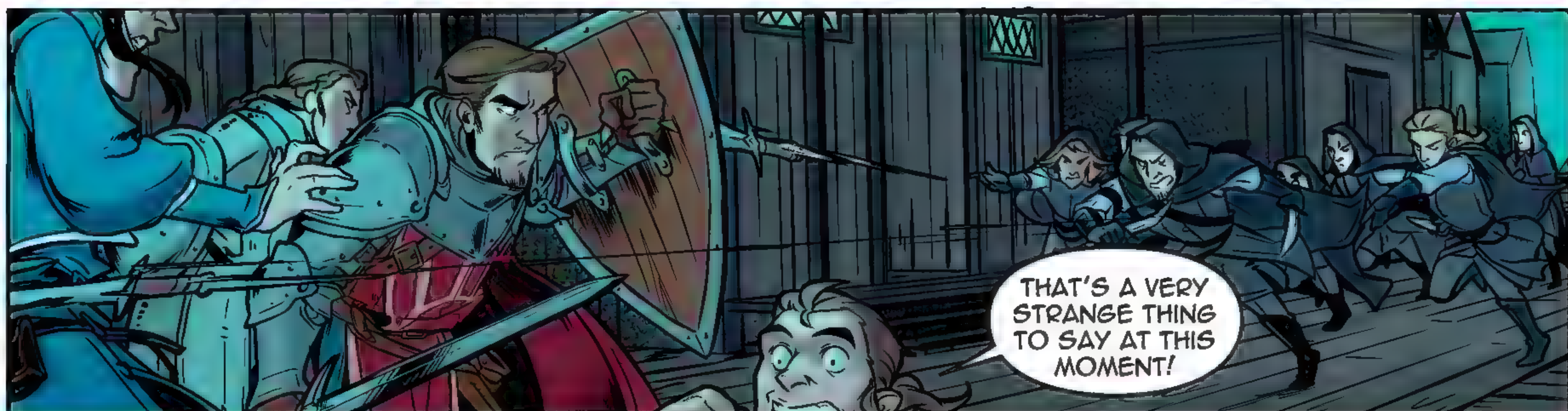


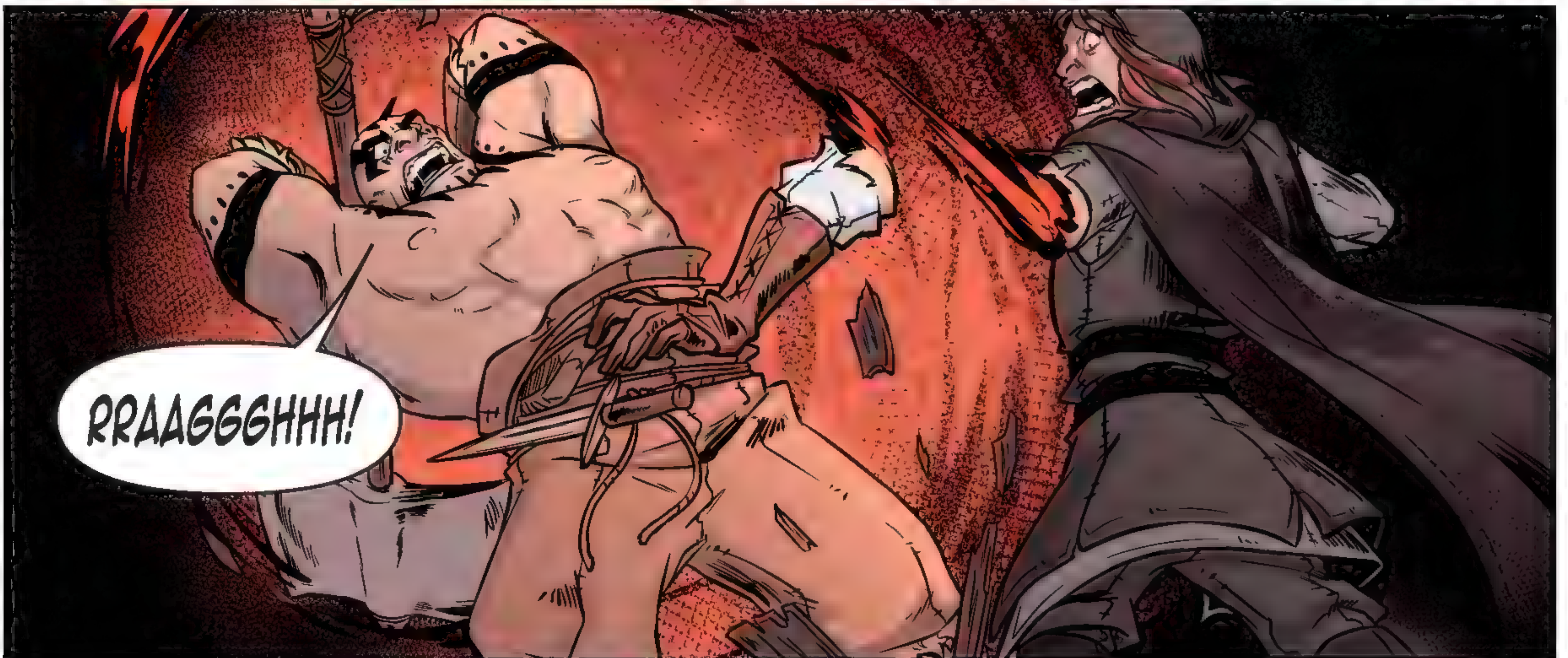
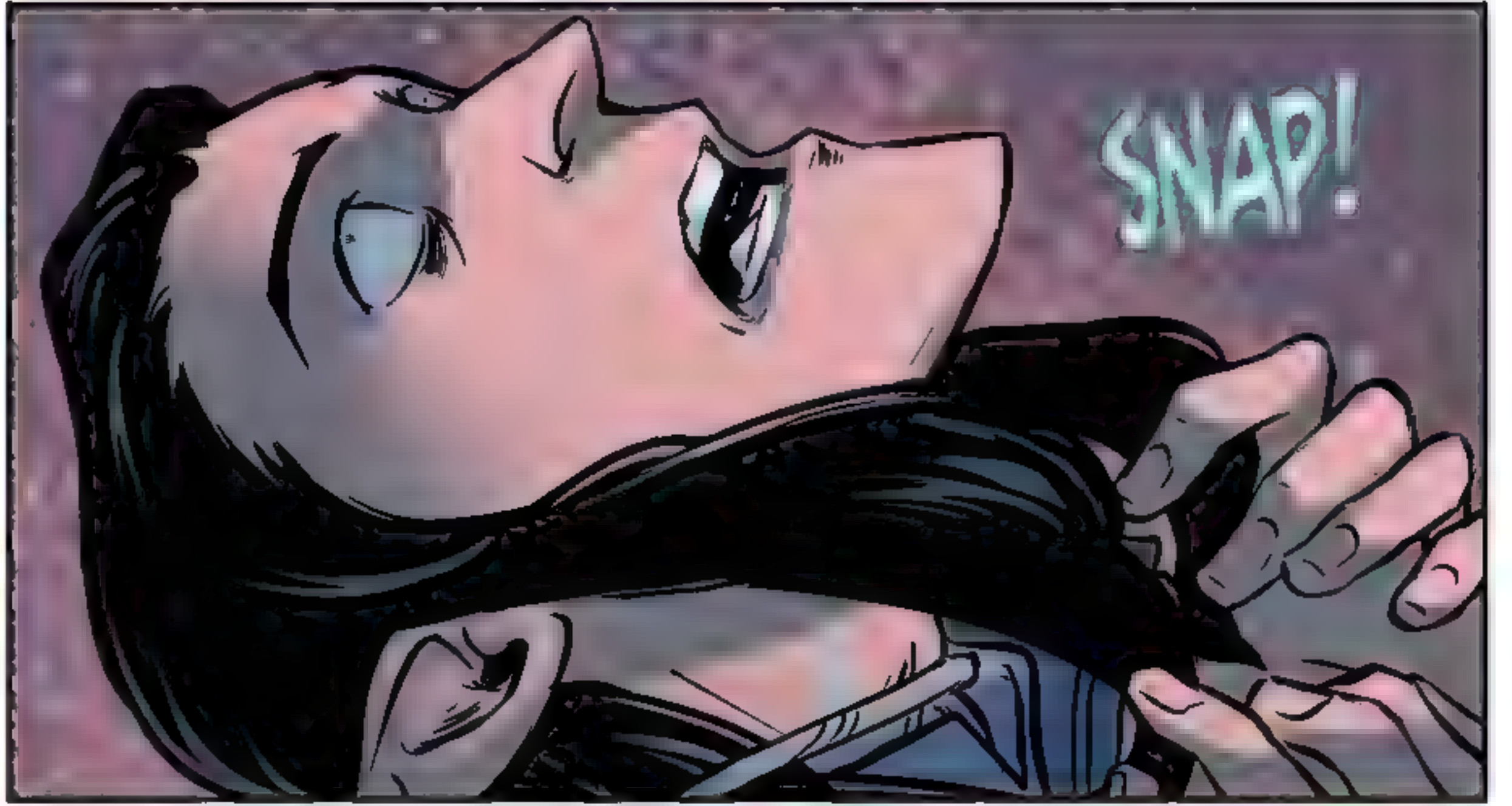
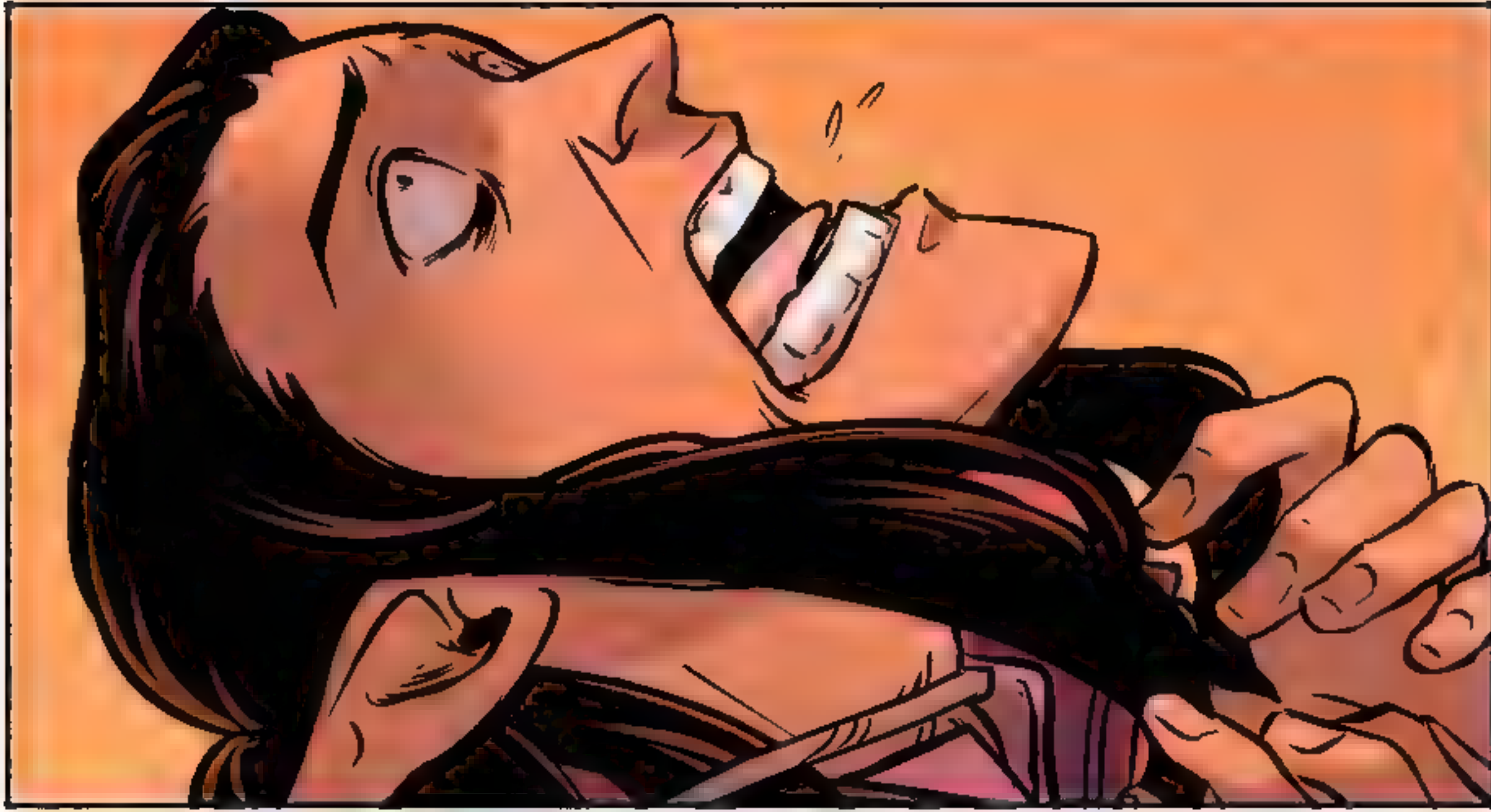


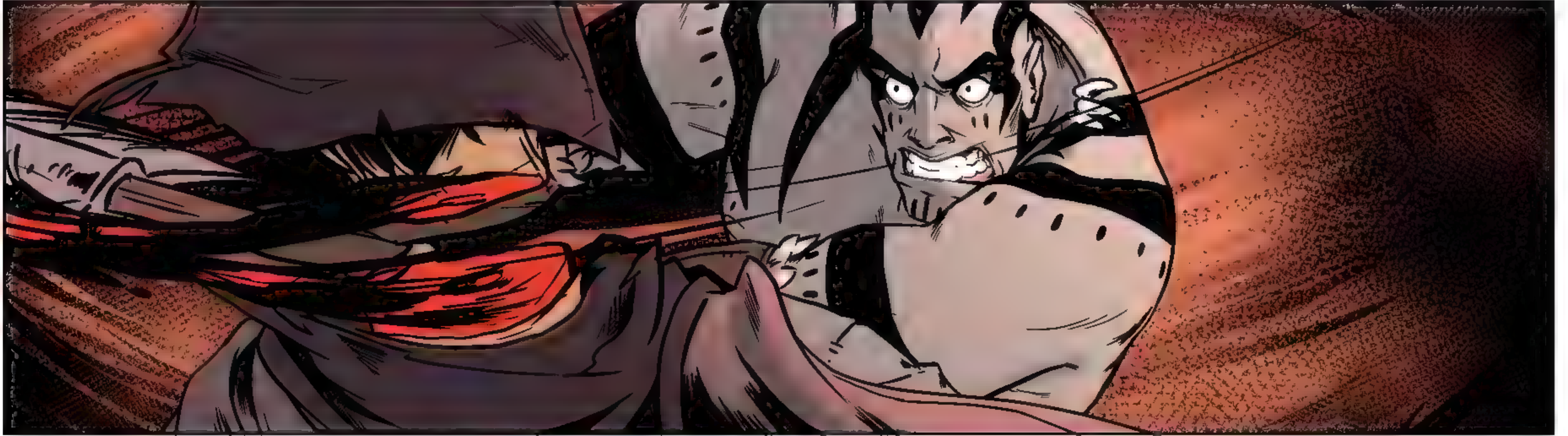
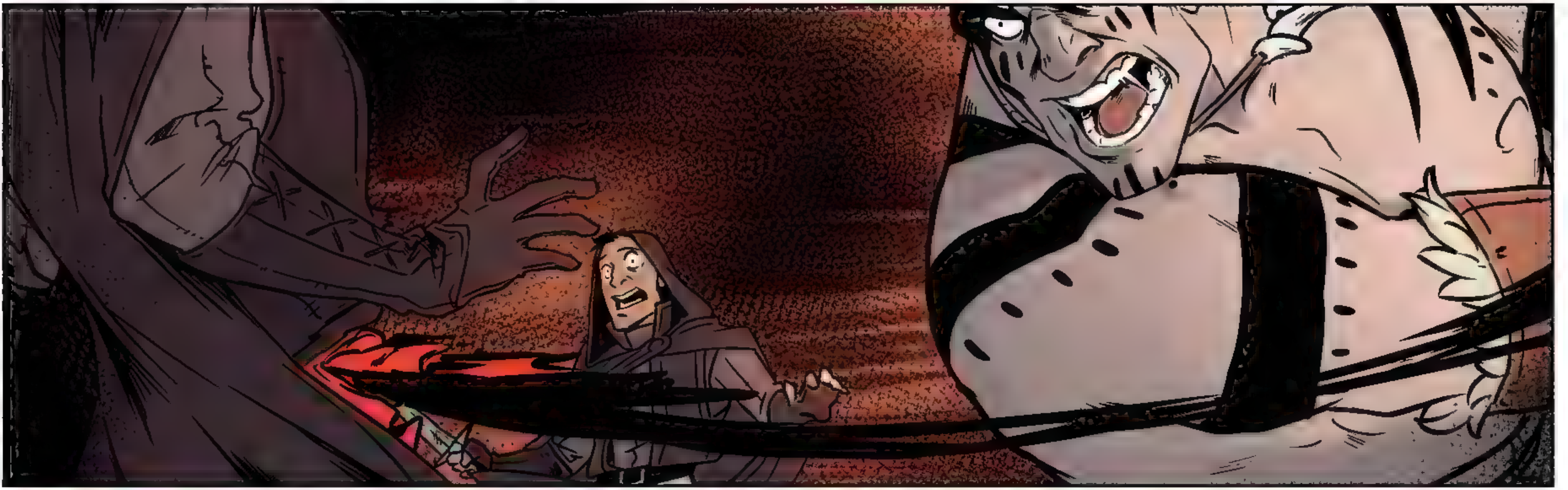


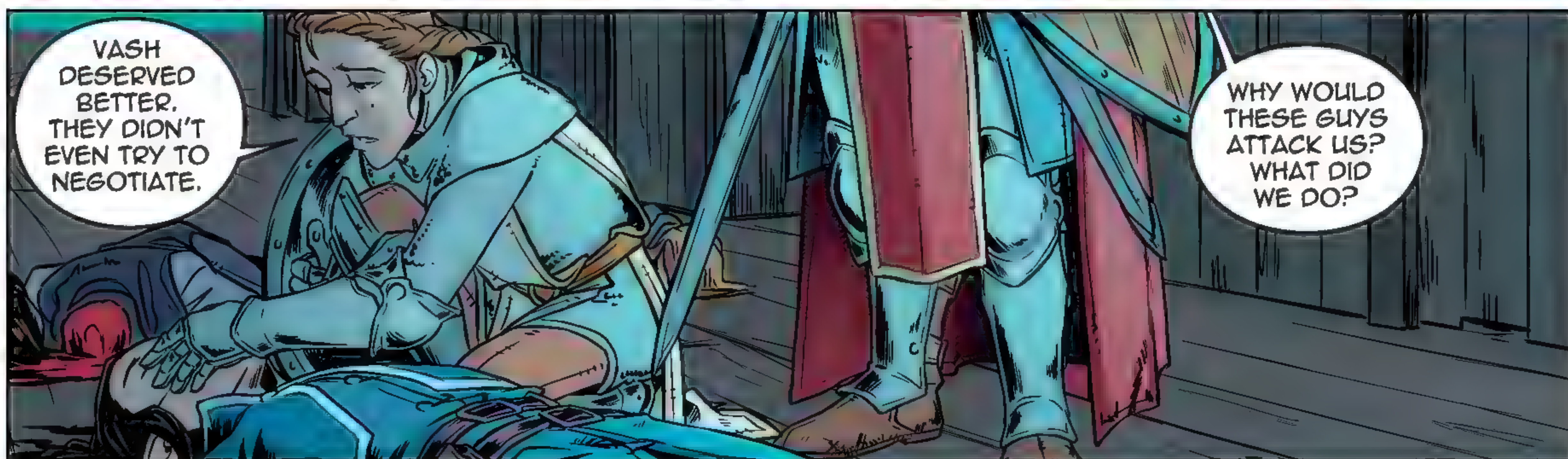
NOW
THAT
WILL MAKE
A GREAT
STORY!













WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



BARD STUFF.



CLASP AGENTS HAVE A TATTOO BETWEEN THEIR SHOULDER BLADES.

THEY DO? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.



LIKE I SAID: BARD STUFF. WE CLEARED OUT THE TEMPLE IN THE SWAMP. MAYBE THESE GUYS DIDN'T WANT IT CLEARED OUT?



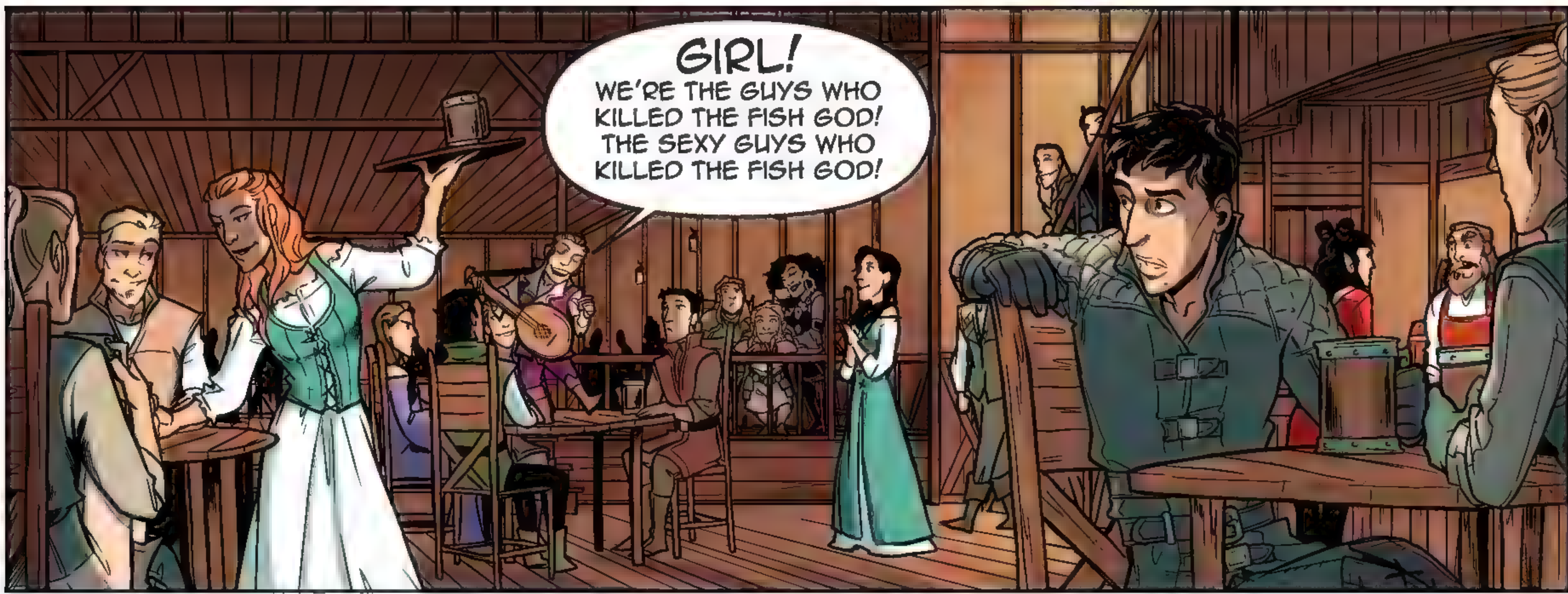
IF SO...I MEAN, WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

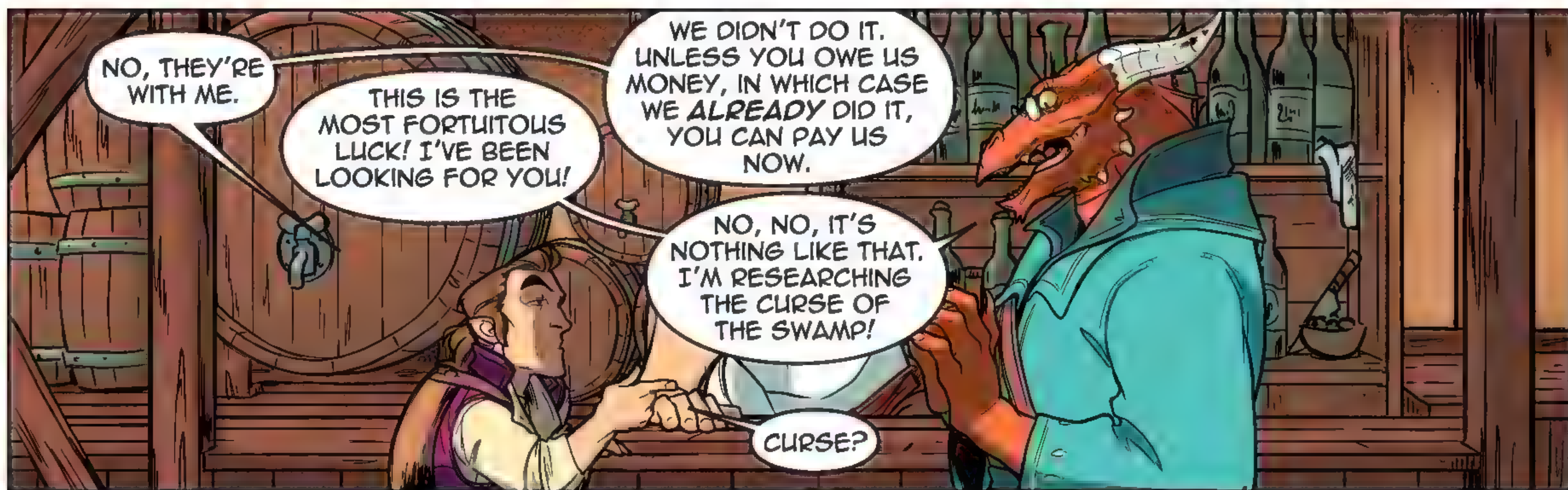
GOOD QUESTION! CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT!

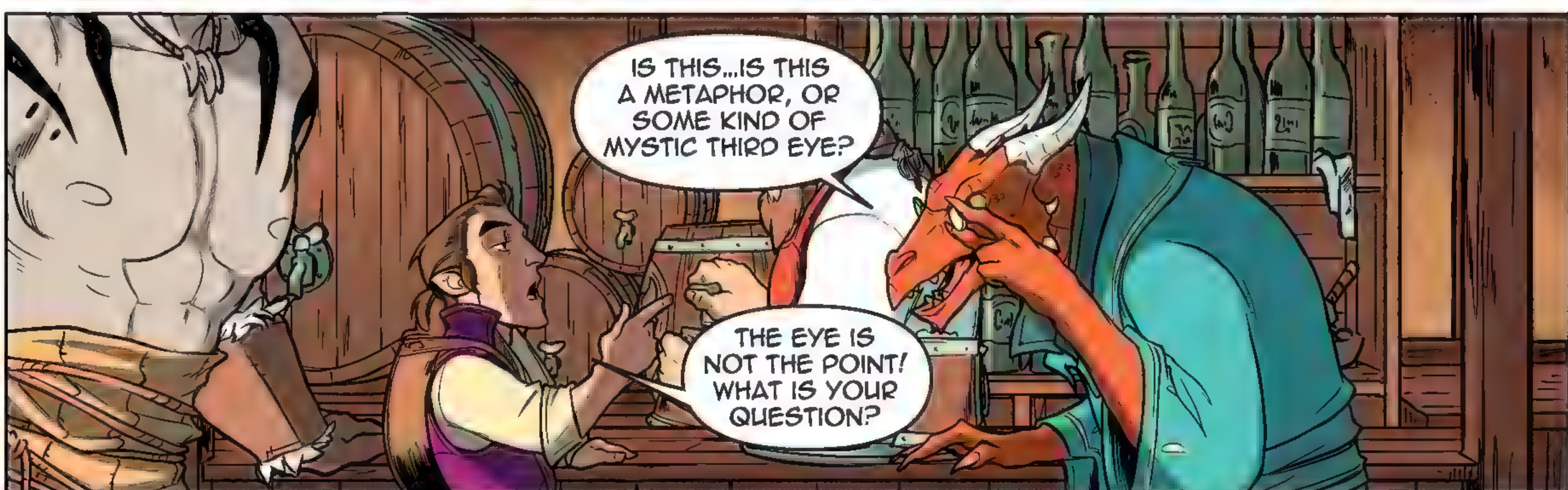
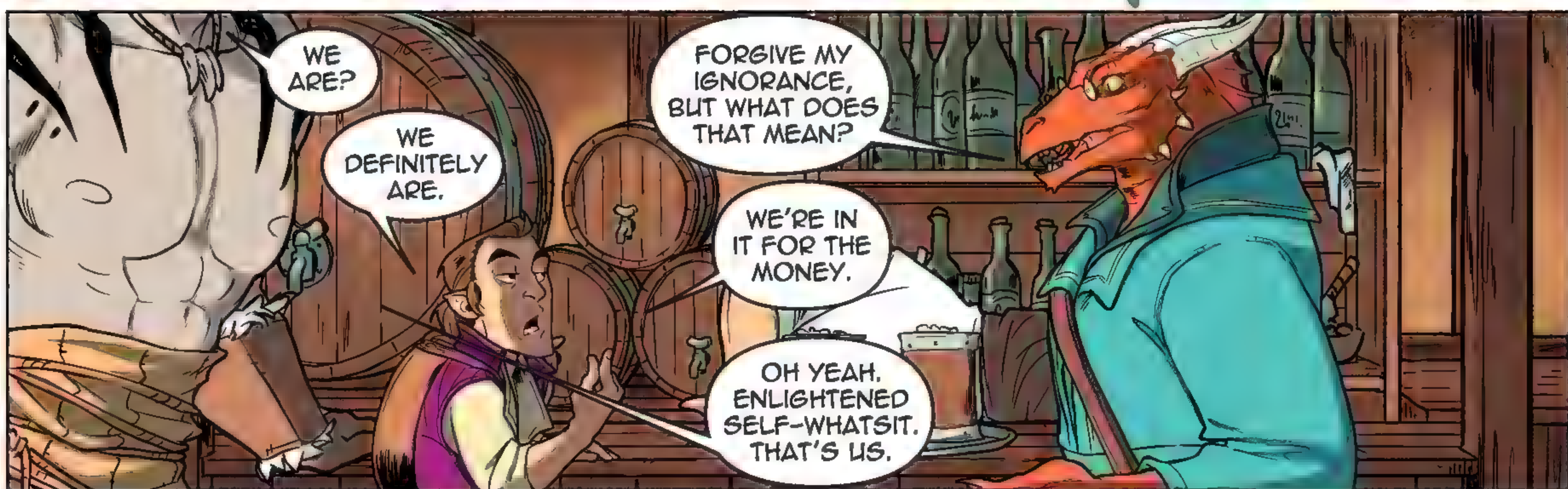
COME ON. WE'VE GOT BAGS FULL OF TREASURE AND WE'RE IN THE WRONG PART OF A BAD TOWN.

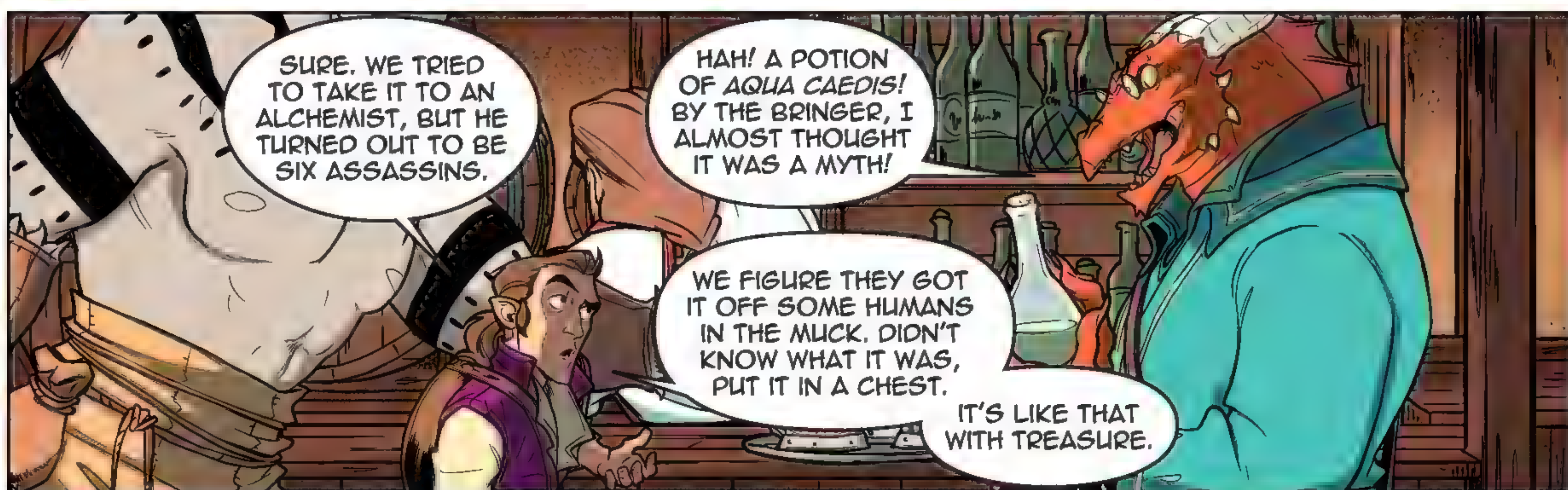
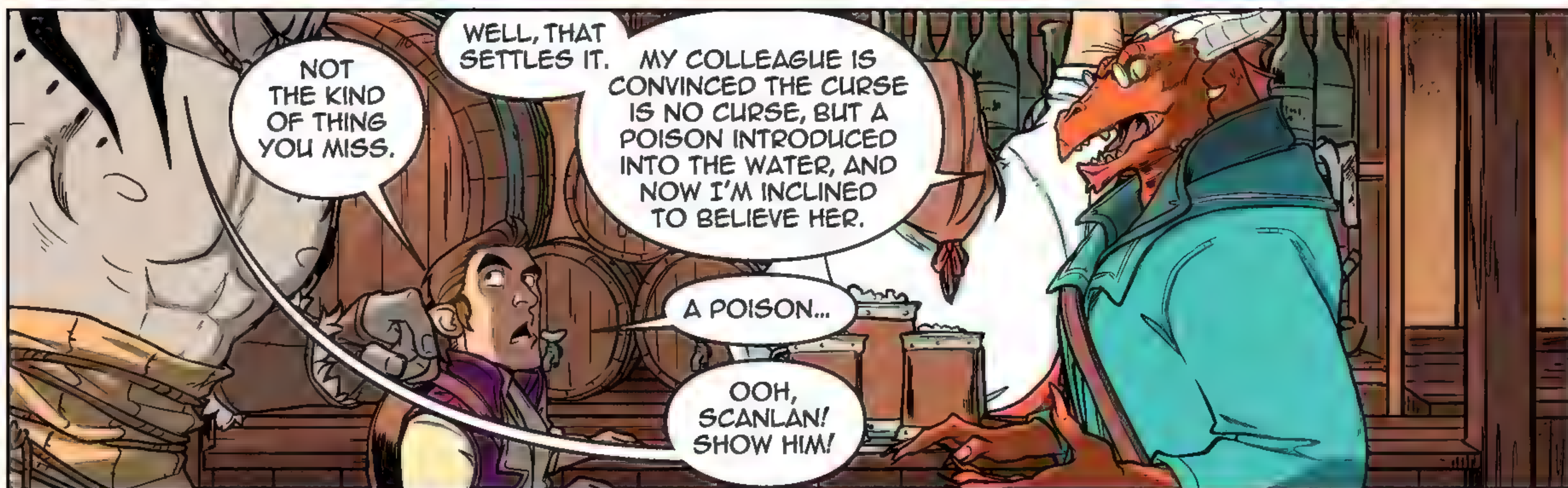
LET'S GET BACK TO THE INN.



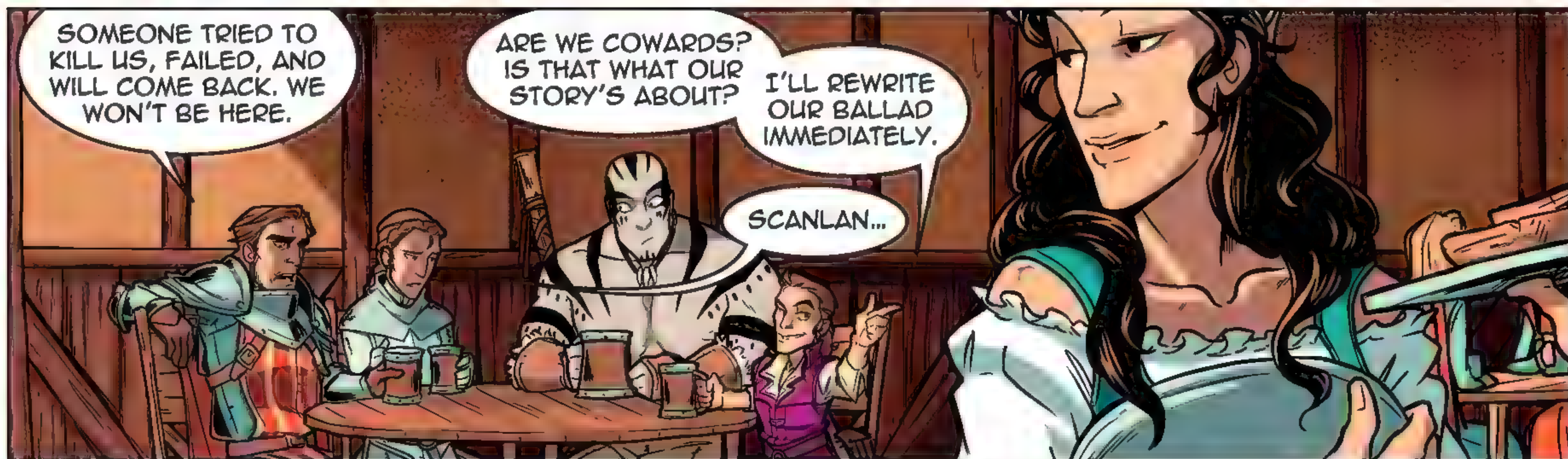








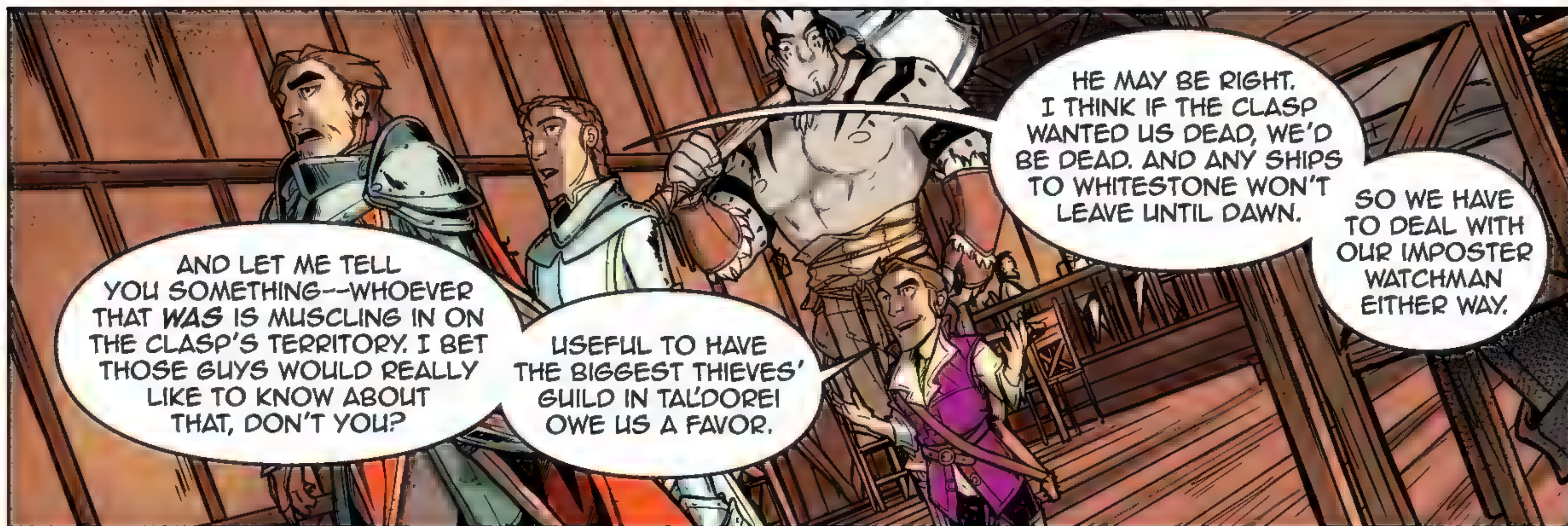












AND LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--WHOEVER THAT WAS IS MUSCLING IN ON THE CLASP'S TERRITORY. I BET THOSE GUYS WOULD REALLY LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THAT, DON'T YOU?

USEFUL TO HAVE THE BIGGEST THIEVES' GUILD IN TAL'DOREI OWE US A FAVOR.

HE MAY BE RIGHT. I THINK IF THE CLASP WANTED US DEAD, WE'D BE DEAD. AND ANY SHIPS TO WHITESTONE WON'T LEAVE UNTIL DAWN.

SO WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH OUR IMPOSTER WATCHMAN EITHER WAY.



ALL RIGHT. WELL, IT'S FIVE OF US AGAINST ONE OF HIM...

RIGHT. SHIT. SORRY, VASH.

FOUR. FOUR OF US.

STILL, I LIKE THOSE ODDS! PLUS, WE JUST GOT PAID TWICE FOR THE SAME PIECE OF TREASURE, SO THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A VERY CLEVER PERSON WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.



ALL RIGHT, WE'VE GOT FOUR HOURS. SCANLAN, YOU AND GROG SCOUT THIS SEWER STATION OUT. IF THERE'S AN AMBUSH, I WANT TO BE THE AMBUSER.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THE DOCKS. IF THIS GOES SOUTH, I WANT TO BE ON A SHIP TO WHITESTONE IN THE MORNING.

DEAL!



WHAT YOU THINKIN' ABOUT?

OH, LOTS OF THINGS. TITS, MOSTLY. ALSO, WHAT IS IN THAT VIAL THAT MAKES IT SO IMPORTANT? POISON? SO WHAT? LOTS OF POISONS AROUND. ALSO, THERE'S A CURSE IN THE POOR PART OF TOWN?

MAYBE SOMEONE'S POISONING THE POOR PEOPLE.



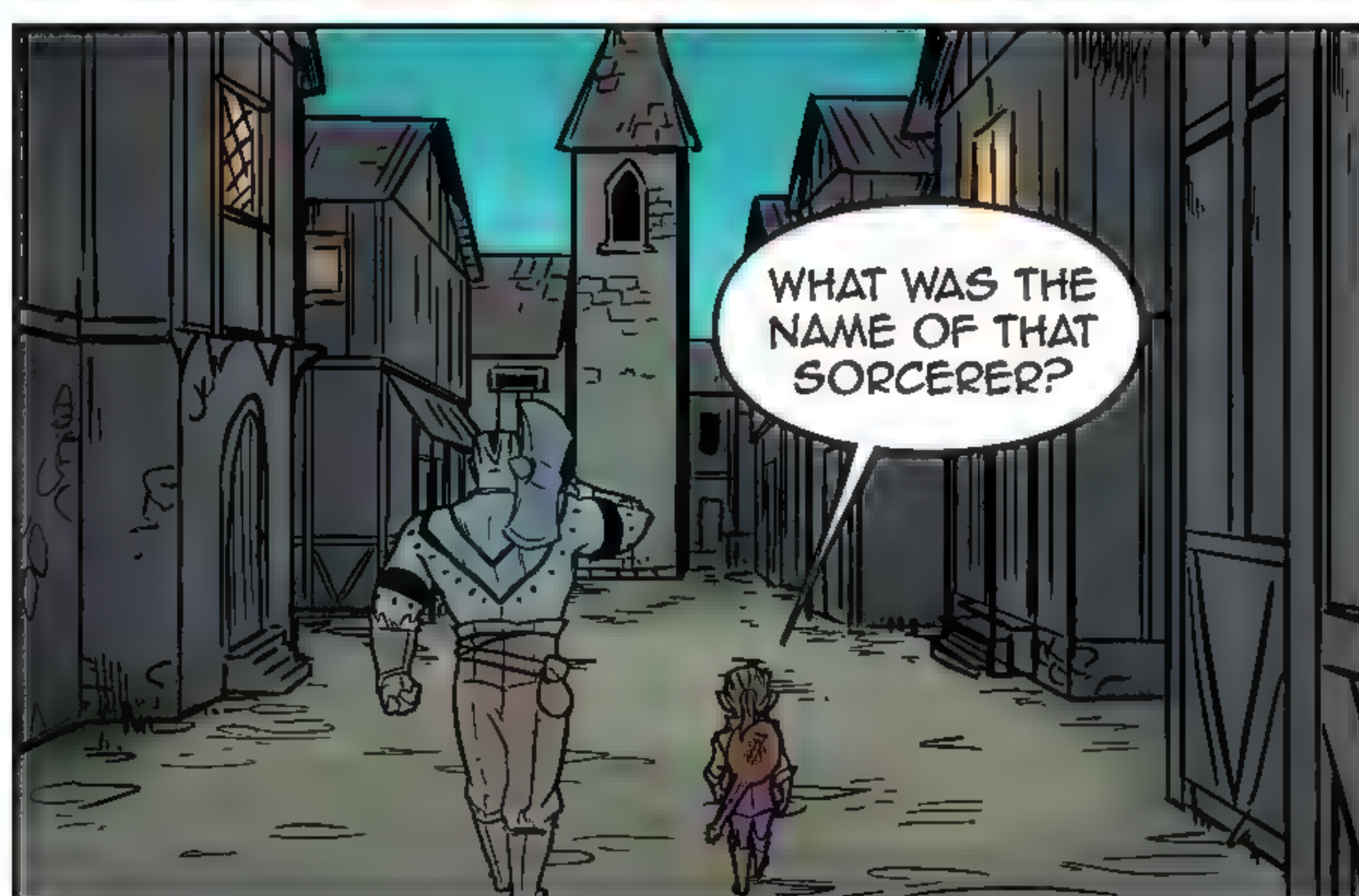
I THINK MAYBE SOMEONE'S POISONING THE... OH. HEY, WELL DONE, GROG!

AW, FANKS, SCANLAN.

BUT, LIKE, WHY? THAT SEEMS A VERY STRANGE THING TO DO...



YAH.



WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT SORCERER?



THEY WILL SAVE THE WORLD.

SCANLAN SHORTHALT
BARDIC MASTER AKA
THE MEAT MAN

GROG STRONGJAW
GRAND POOBAAH OF DE
DOINK

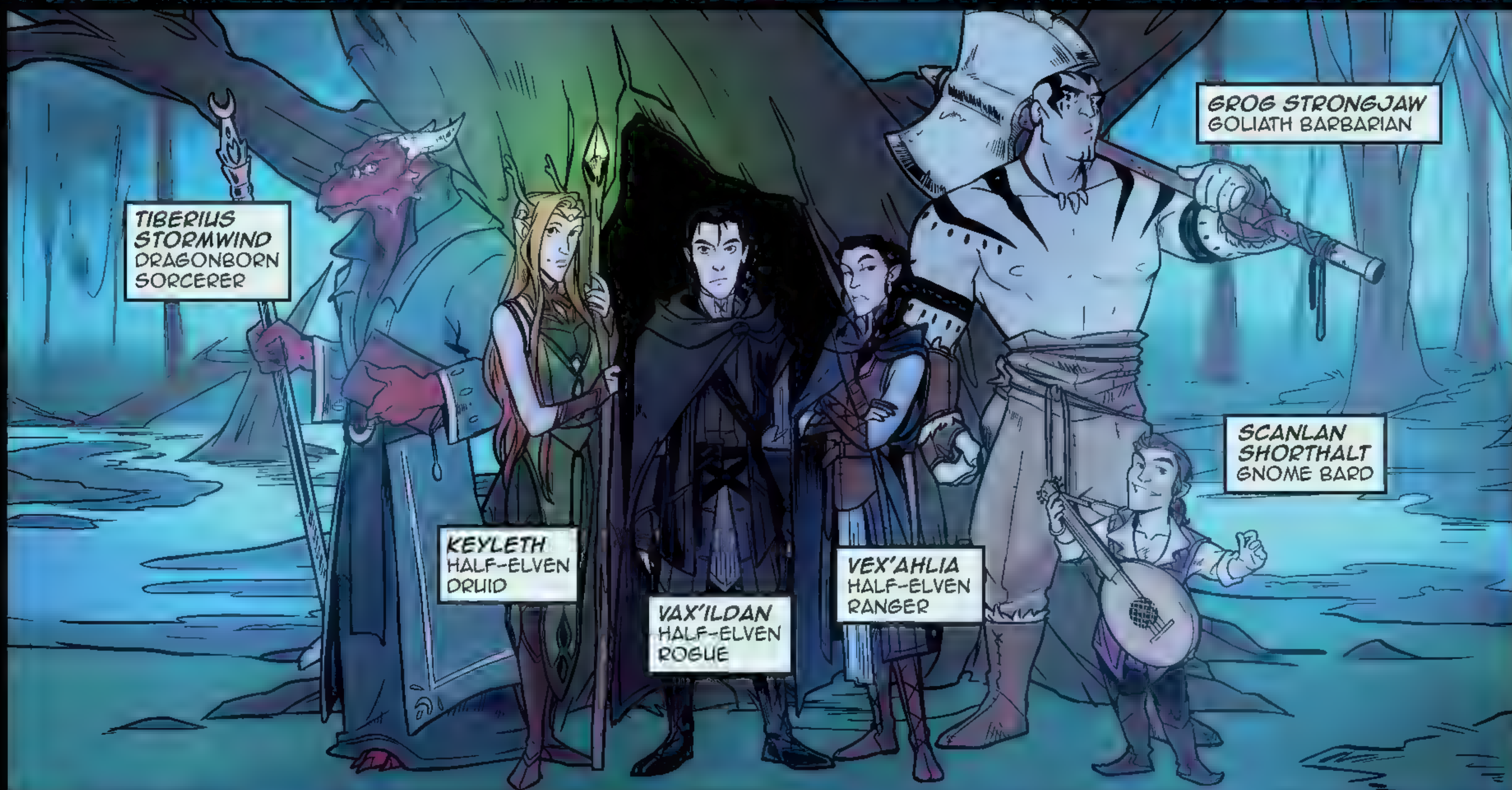
LORD PERCIVAL
FREDRICKSTEIN VON
MUSEL KLOSSOWSKI
DE ROLO III, SOPHIST
OF NATIVE INGENUITY
OF WHITESTONE

LADY VEX'AHLIA
GRAND MISTRESS
OF THE GREY HUNT

KEYLETH
VOICE OF
THE TEMPEST

VAX'ILDAN
PALADIN OF
THE MATRON
OF RAVENS

PIKE TRICKFOOT
CHOSEN OF THE
EVERLIGHT



TIBERIUS
STORMWIND
DRAGONBORN
SORCERER

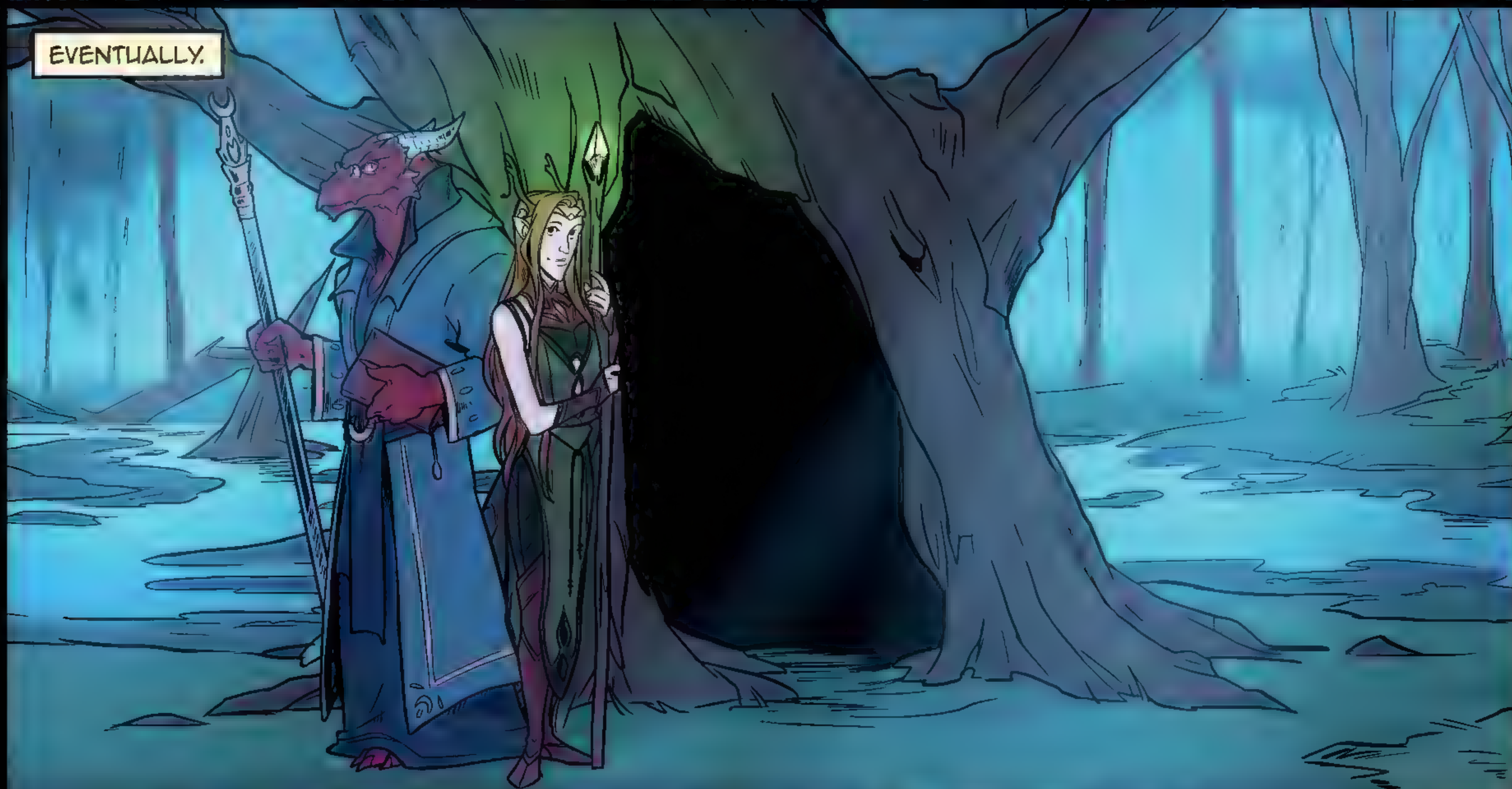
GROG STRONGJAW
GOLIATH BARBARIAN

KEYLETH
HALF-ELVEN
DRUID

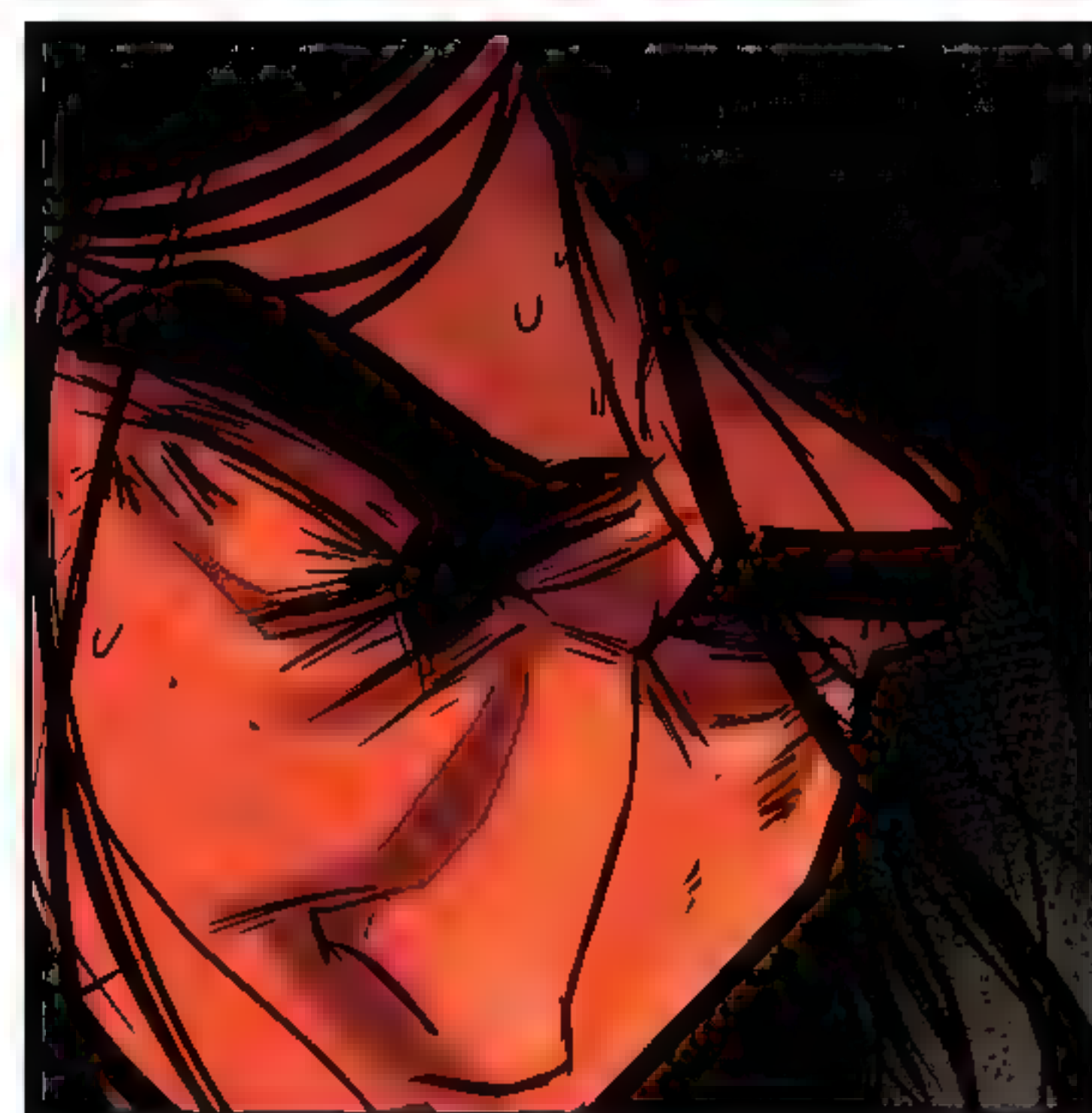
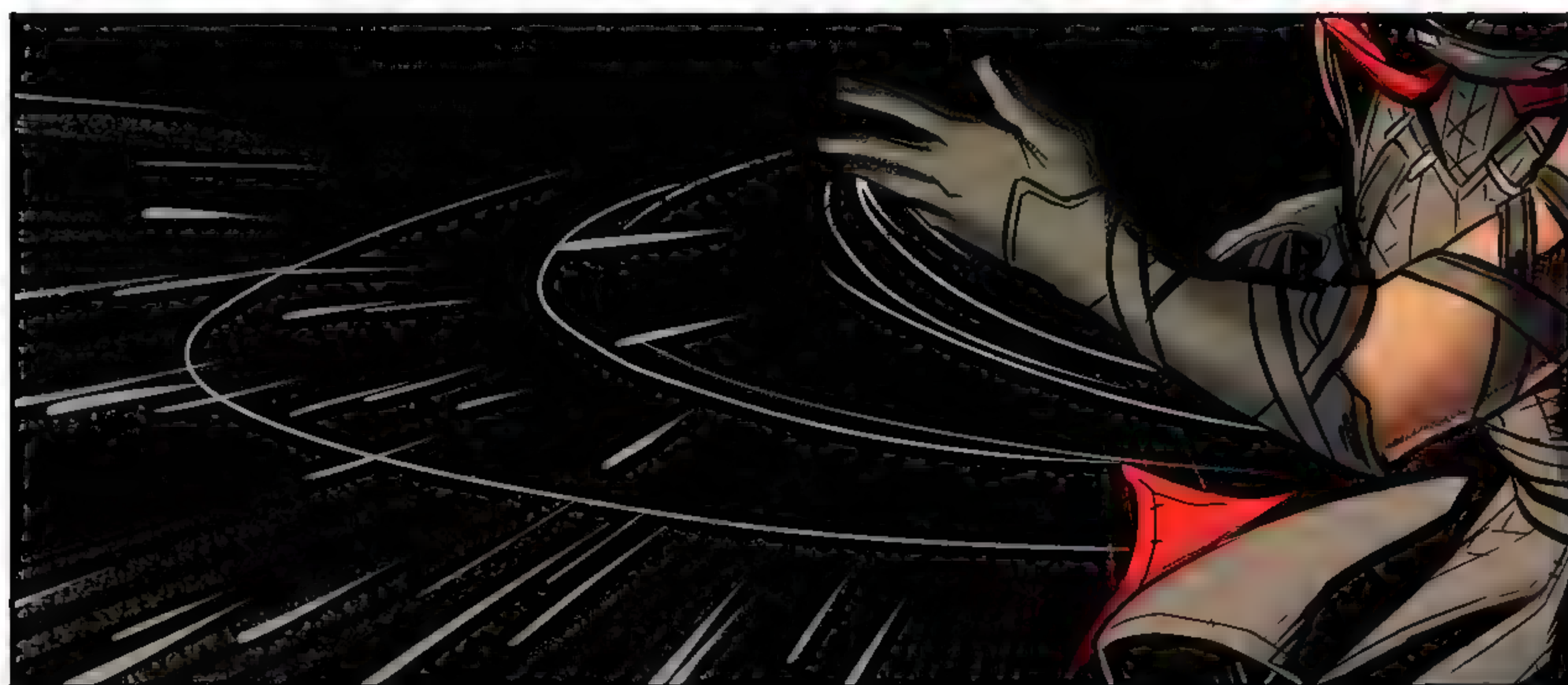
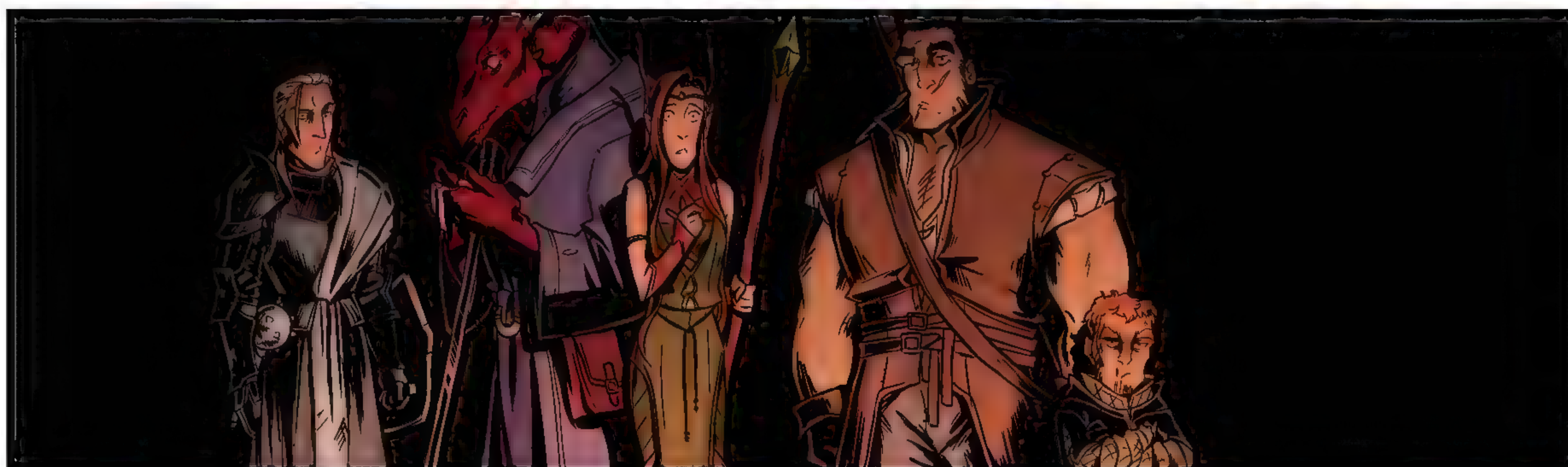
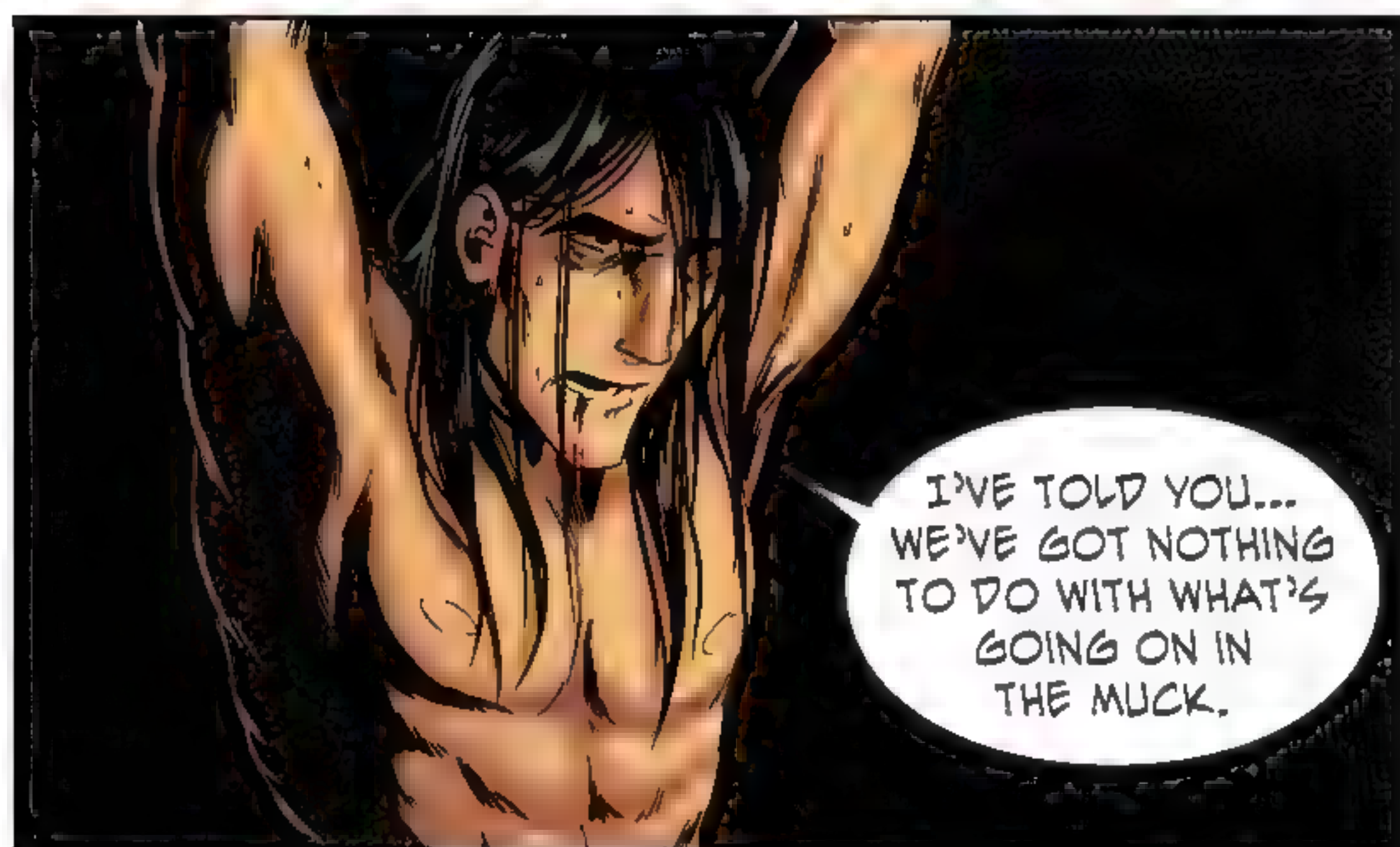
VAX'ILDAN
HALF-ELVEN
ROGUE

VEX'AHLIA
HALF-ELVEN
RANGER

SCANLAN
SHORTHALT
GNOME BARD



EVENTUALLY.



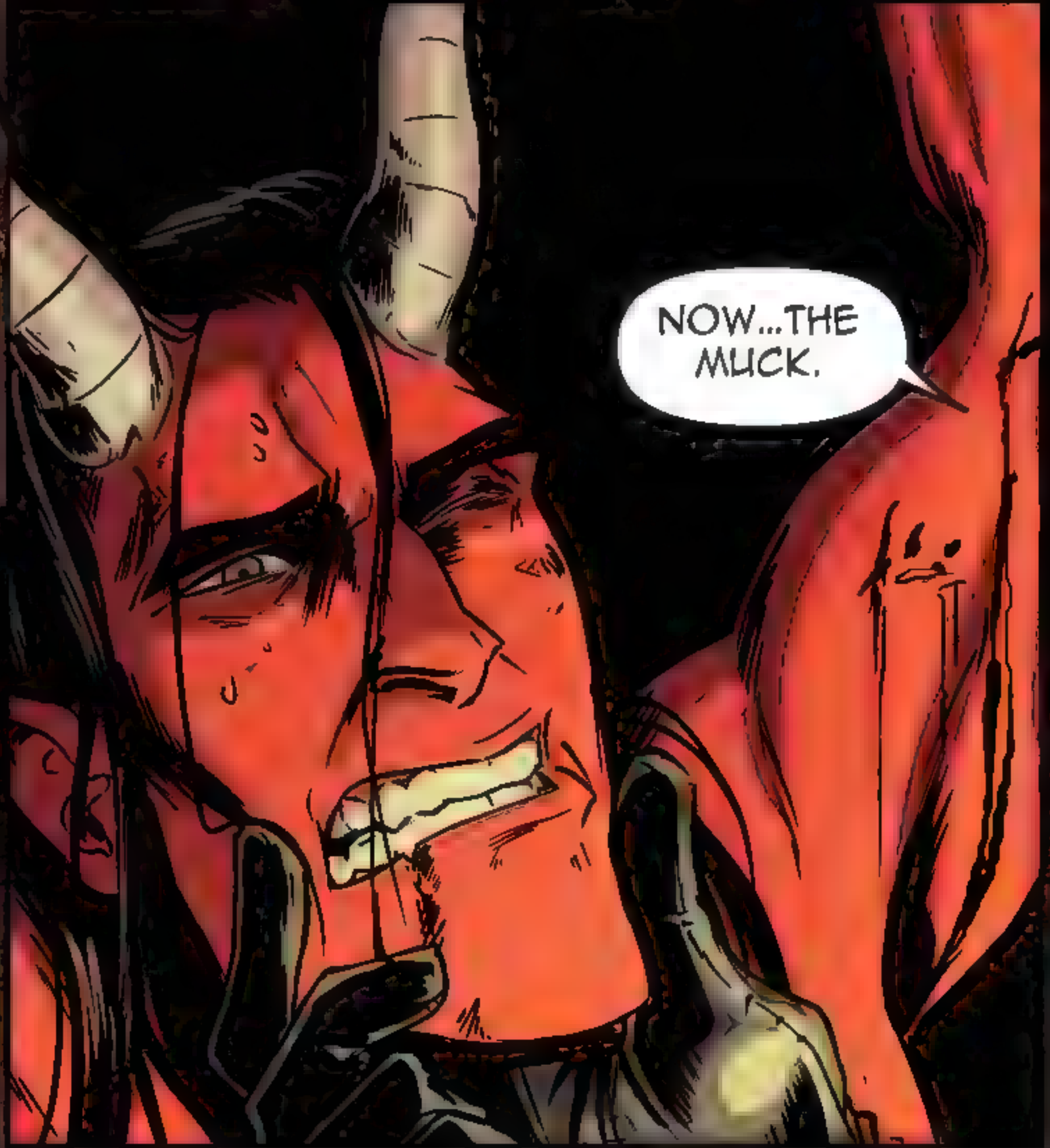


EAAGGHH!

AHH, THERE'S NOTHING I LOVE MORE THAN BEING *RIGHT*.

I TOLD YOU! ONCE THE CLASP FASTENS ONTO YOU, YOU'RE THROUGH.

SPREADING HARROK



NOW...THE MUCK.



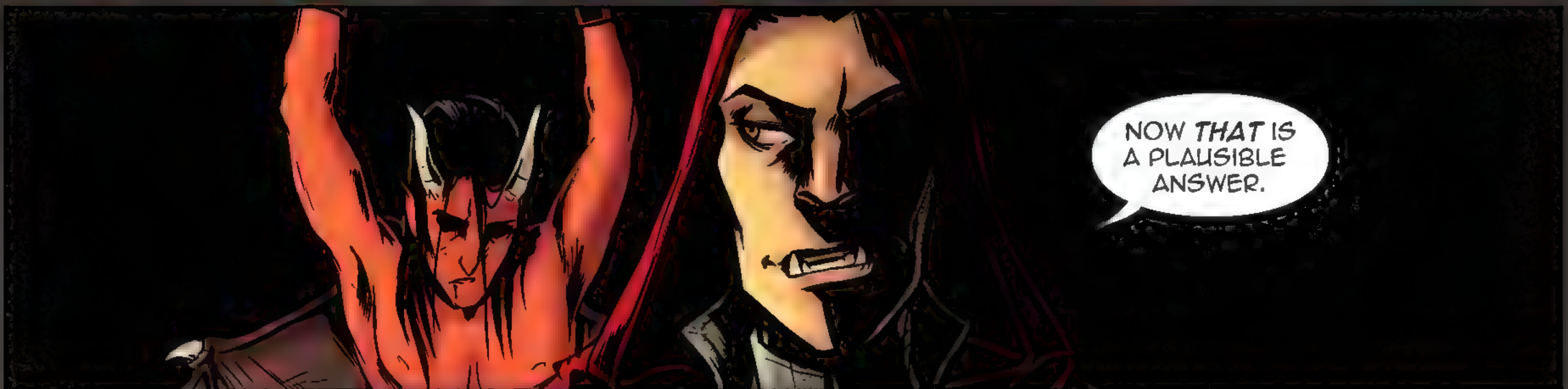
ANOTHER GUILD. RIVALS. FROM WILDEMOUNT.

THEY HAD A PLAN... KILL EVERYONE IN THE MUCK.

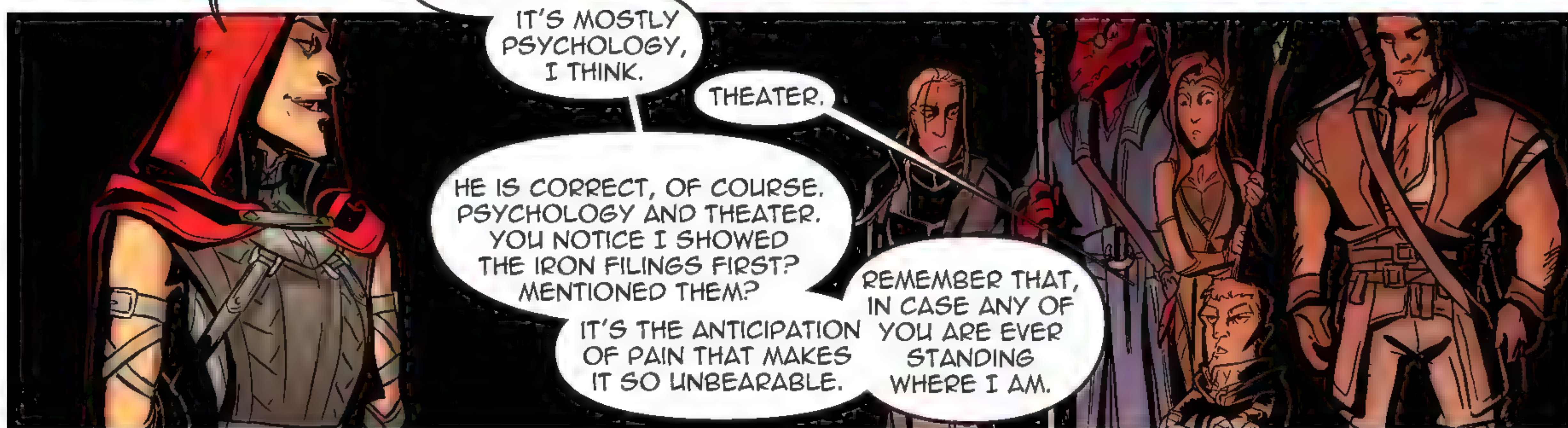
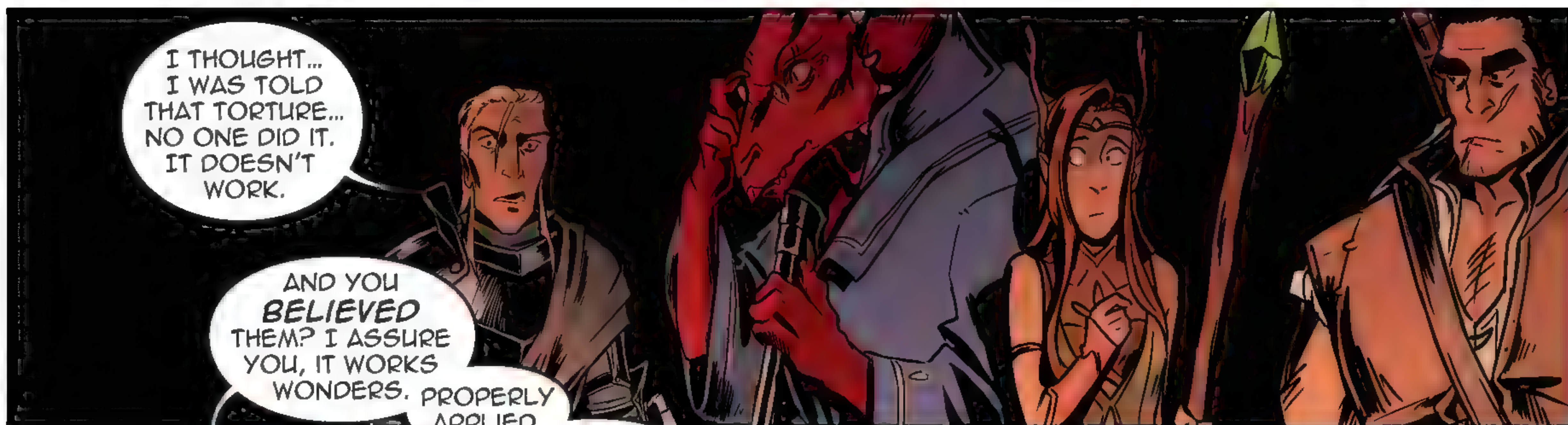
DESTROY YOUR BUSINESS.

ASKED US FOR HELP BUT...

WOULDN'T TELL US... WHO THEY WERE.



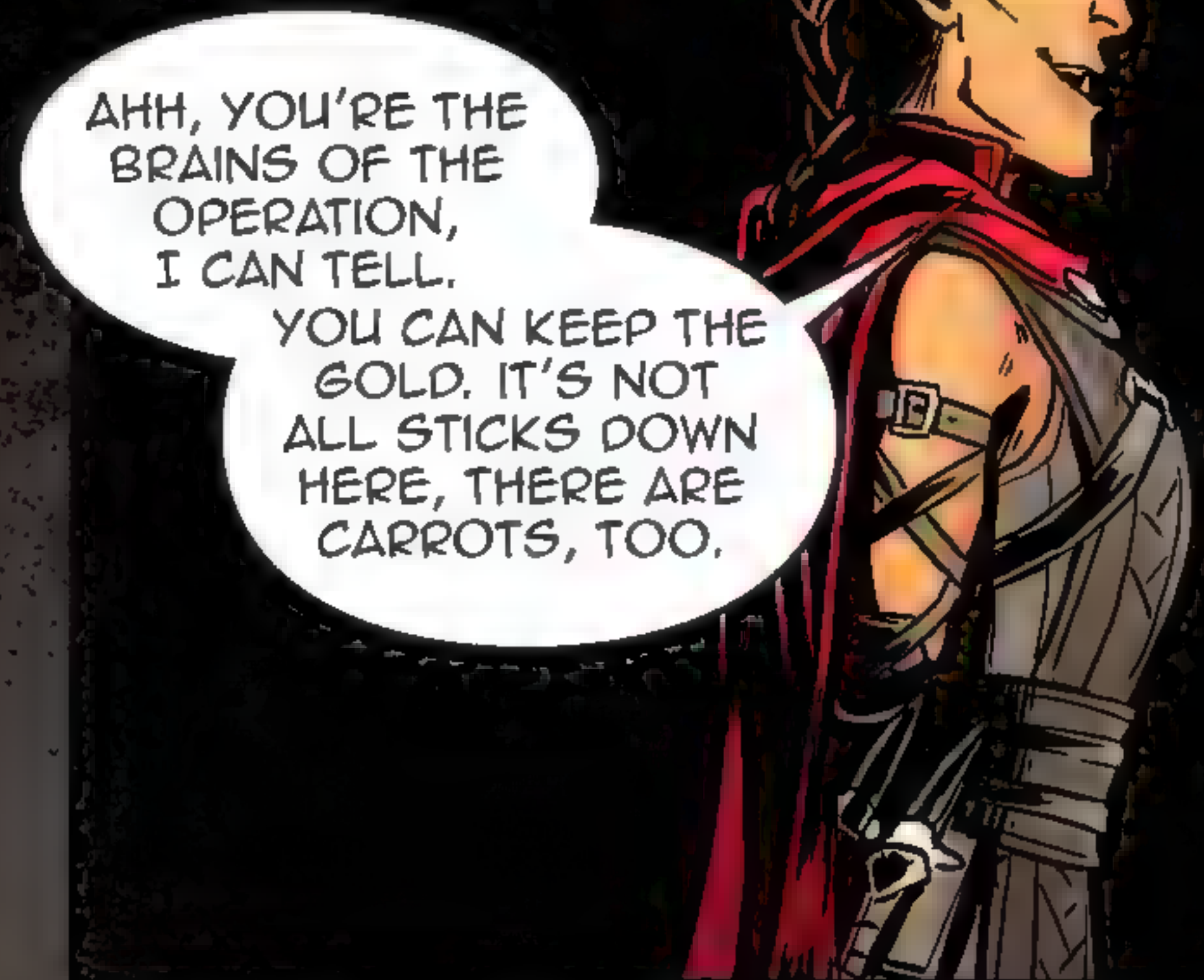
NOW THAT IS A PLAUSIBLE ANSWER.





I APPRECIATE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHAKE SOMEONE DOWN, MAYBE CHOOSE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT YOUR EMPLOYER AND THE HEAD OF THE CITY'S THIEVES' GUILD?

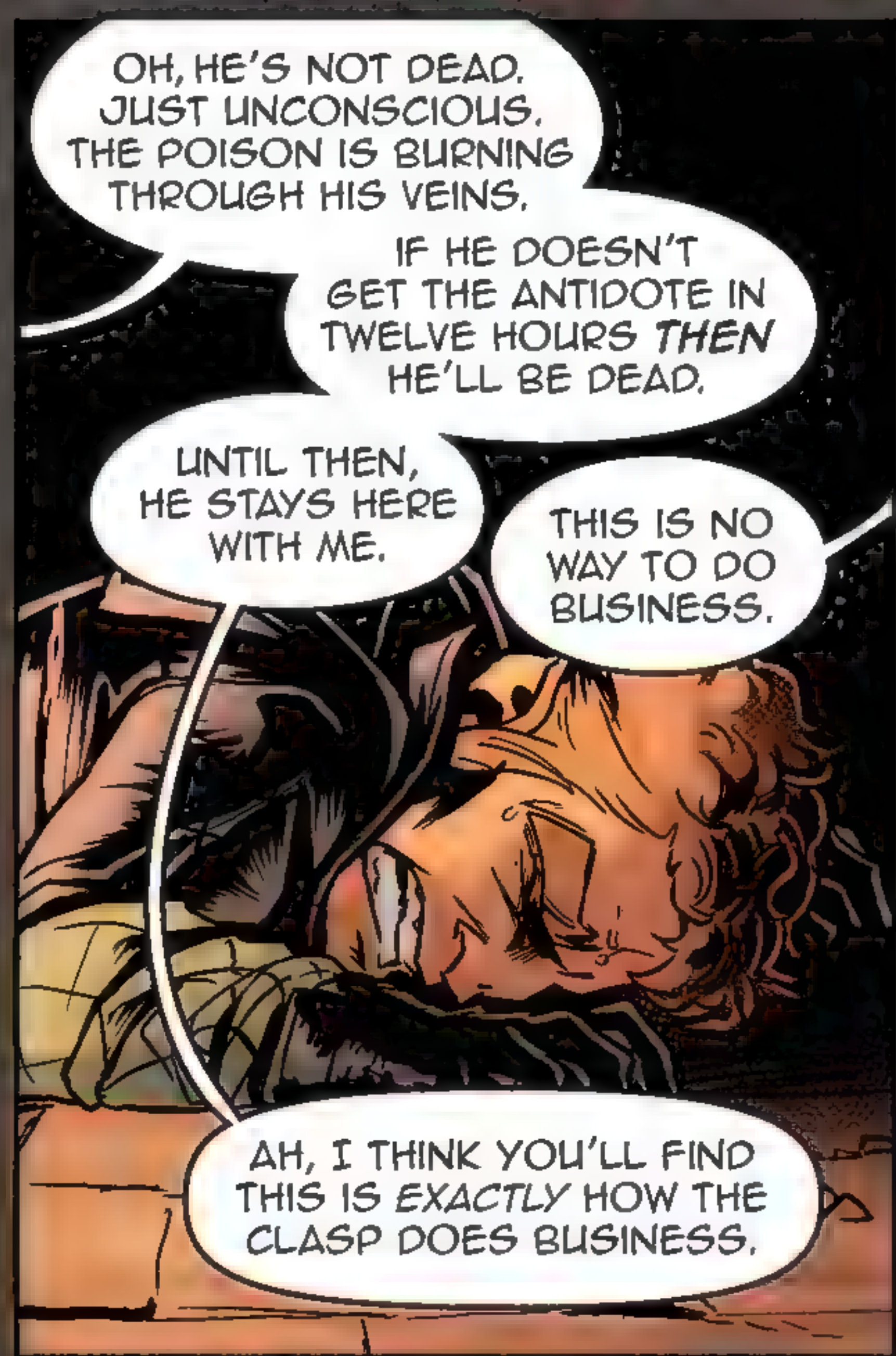
BRUL! WE'RE SURROUNDED BY ASSASSINS. WE'D NEVER MAKE IT OUT ALIVE.



AHH, YOU'RE THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION, I CAN TELL.

YOU CAN KEEP THE GOLD. IT'S NOT ALL STICKS DOWN HERE, THERE ARE CARROTS, TOO.

YOU KILLED STITCH! WHY THE FUCK SHOULD WE WORK FOR YOU?



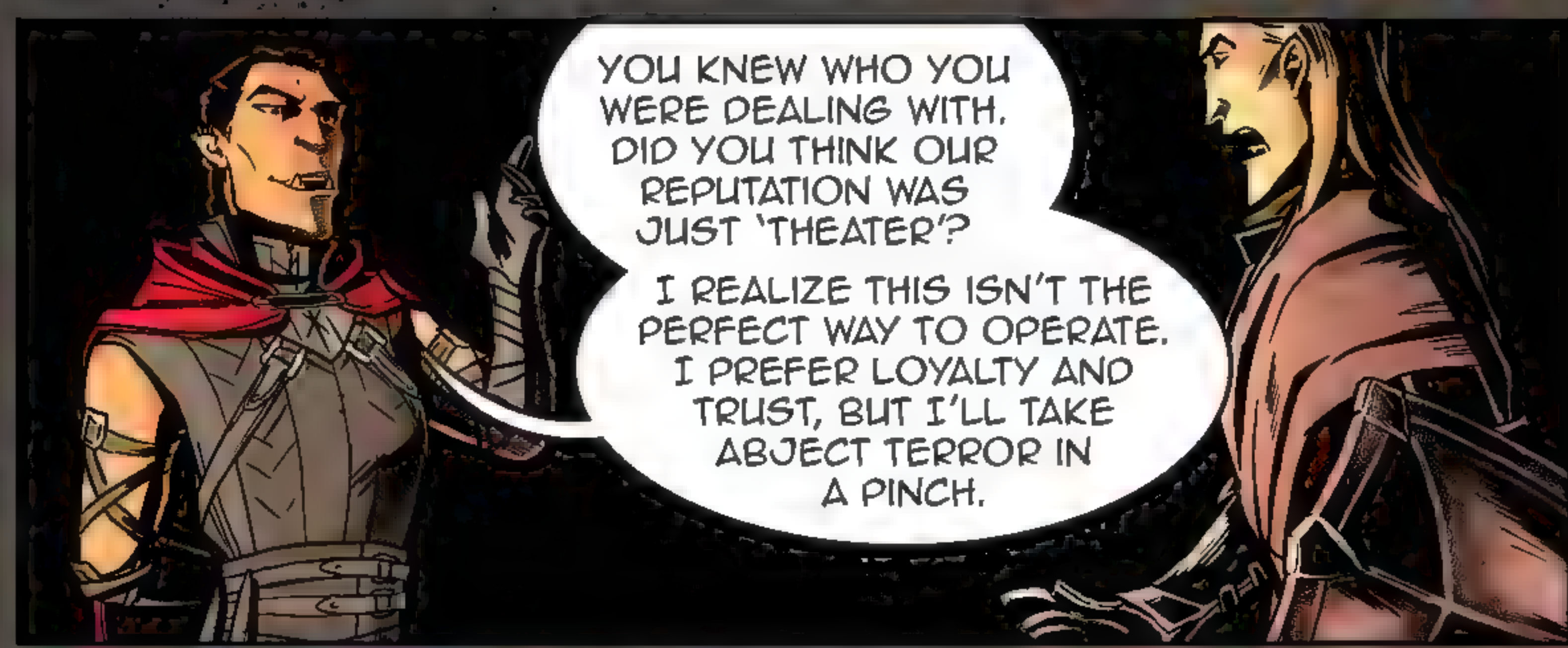
OH, HE'S NOT DEAD. JUST UNCONSCIOUS. THE POISON IS BURNING THROUGH HIS VEINS.

IF HE DOESN'T GET THE ANTIDOTE IN TWELVE HOURS THEN HE'LL BE DEAD.

UNTIL THEN, HE STAYS HERE WITH ME.

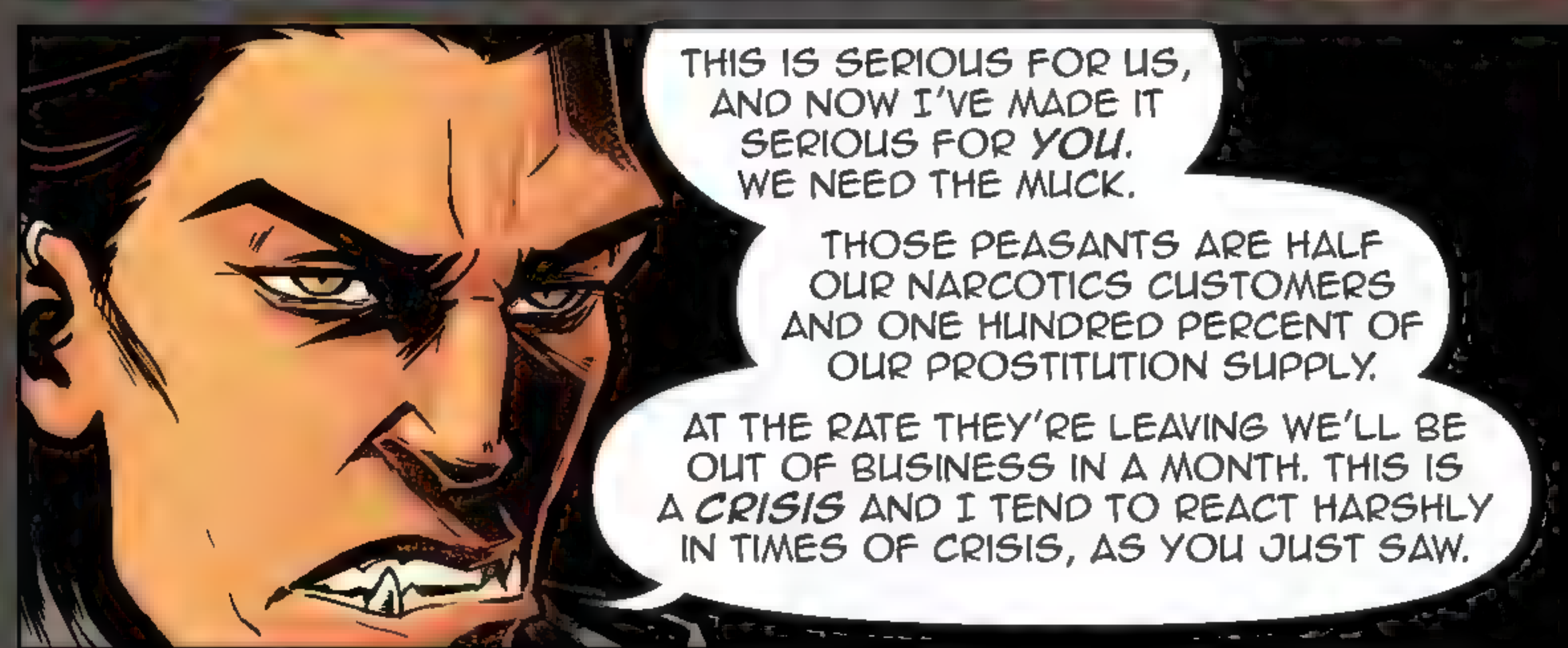
THIS IS NO WAY TO DO BUSINESS.

AH, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS IS EXACTLY HOW THE CLASP DOES BUSINESS.



YOU KNEW WHO YOU WERE DEALING WITH. DID YOU THINK OUR REPUTATION WAS JUST 'THEATER'?

I REALIZE THIS ISN'T THE PERFECT WAY TO OPERATE. I PREFER LOYALTY AND TRUST, BUT I'LL TAKE ABJECT TERROR IN A PINCH.



THIS IS SERIOUS FOR US, AND NOW I'VE MADE IT SERIOUS FOR YOU. WE NEED THE MUCK.

THOSE PEASANTS ARE HALF OUR NARCOTICS CUSTOMERS AND ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF OUR PROSTITUTION SUPPLY.

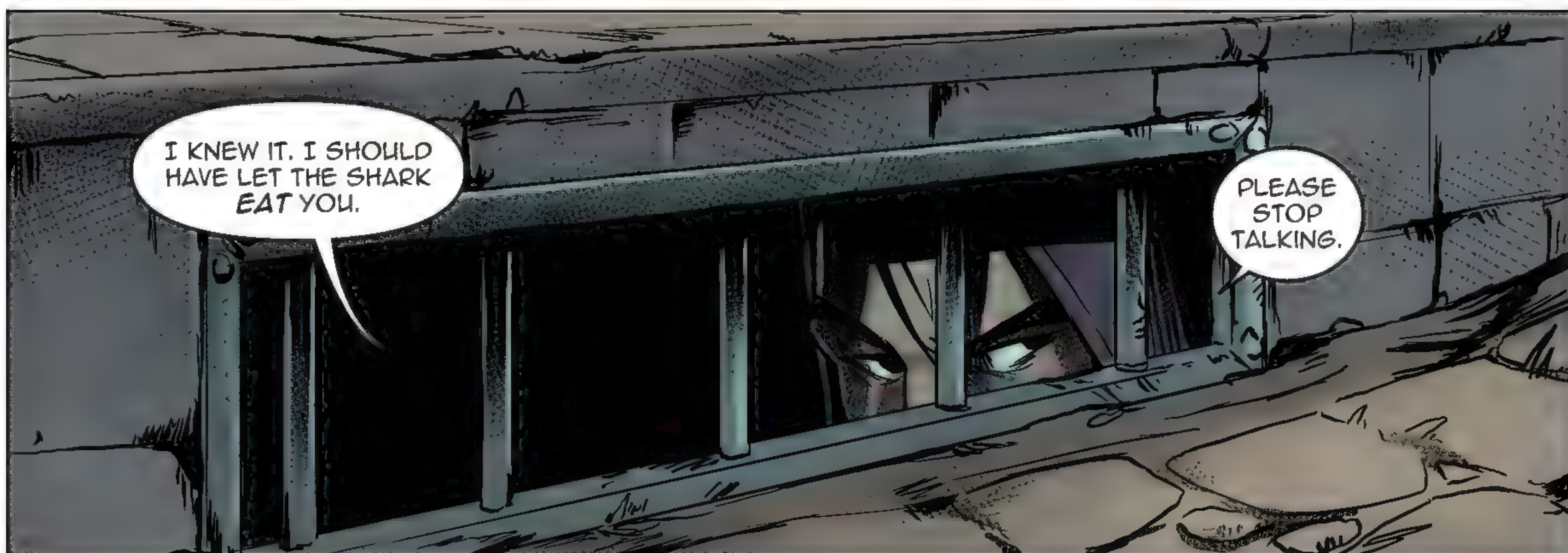
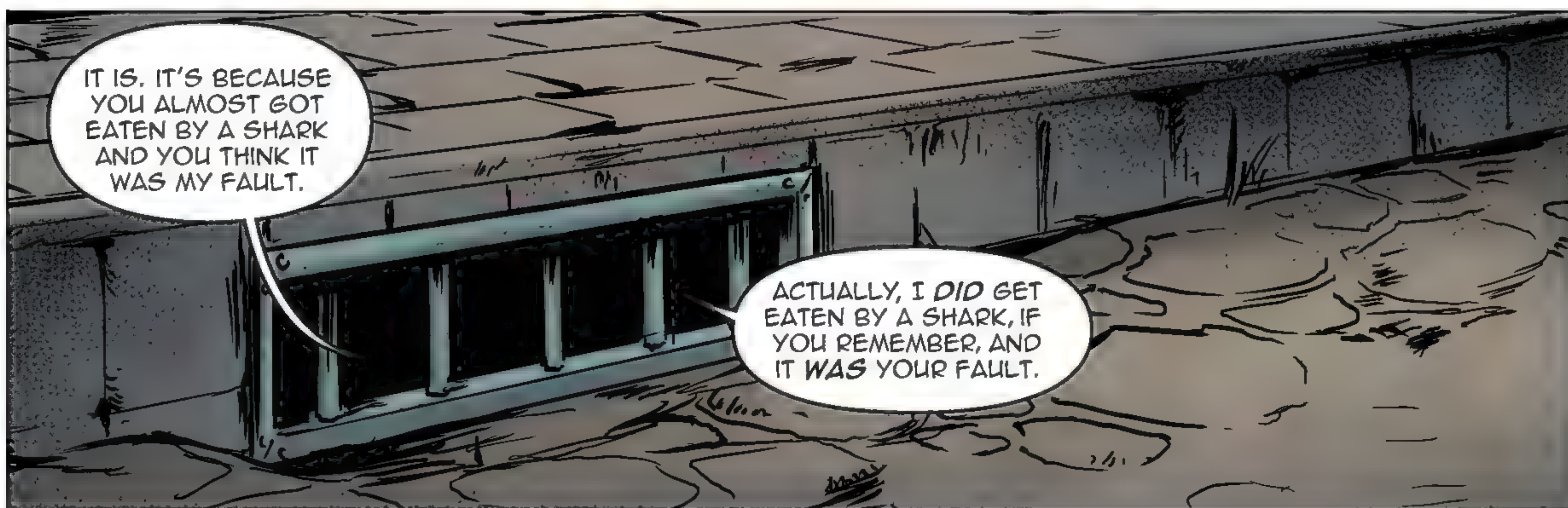
AT THE RATE THEY'RE LEAVING WE'LL BE OUT OF BUSINESS IN A MONTH. THIS IS A **CRISIS** AND I TEND TO REACT HARSHLY IN TIMES OF CRISIS, AS YOU JUST SAW.



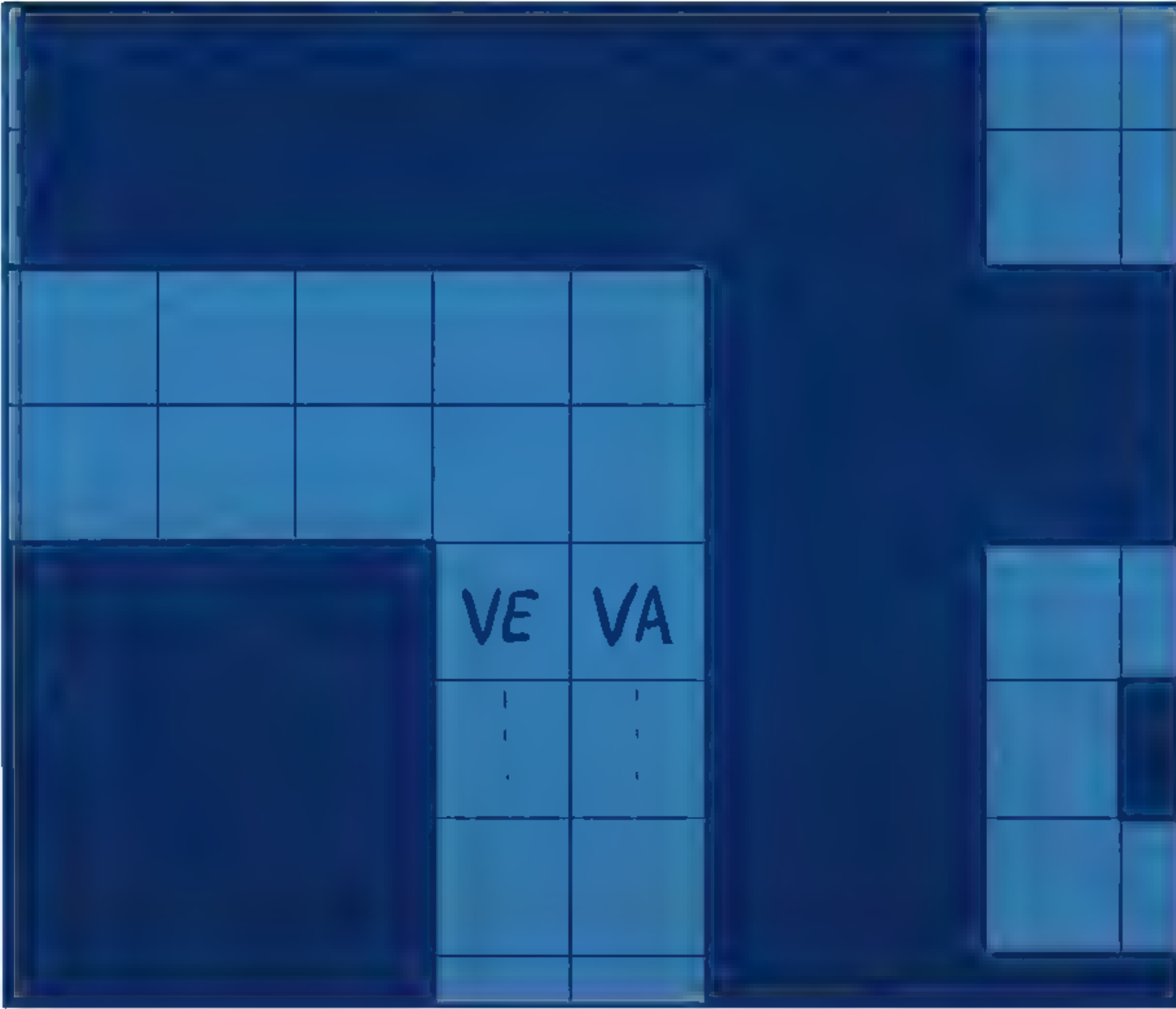
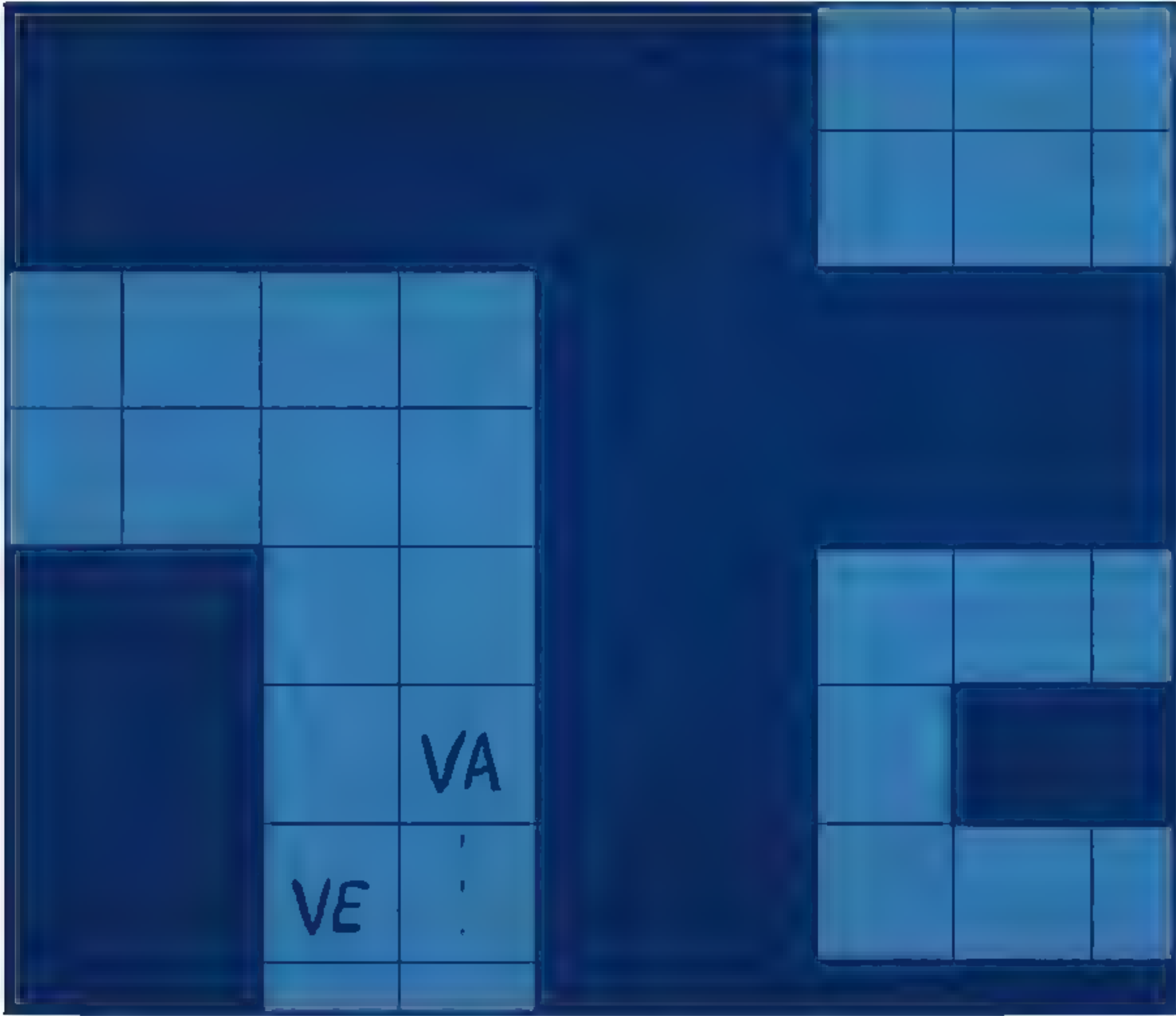
NOW RUN ALONG. YOU HAVE TWELVE HOURS.

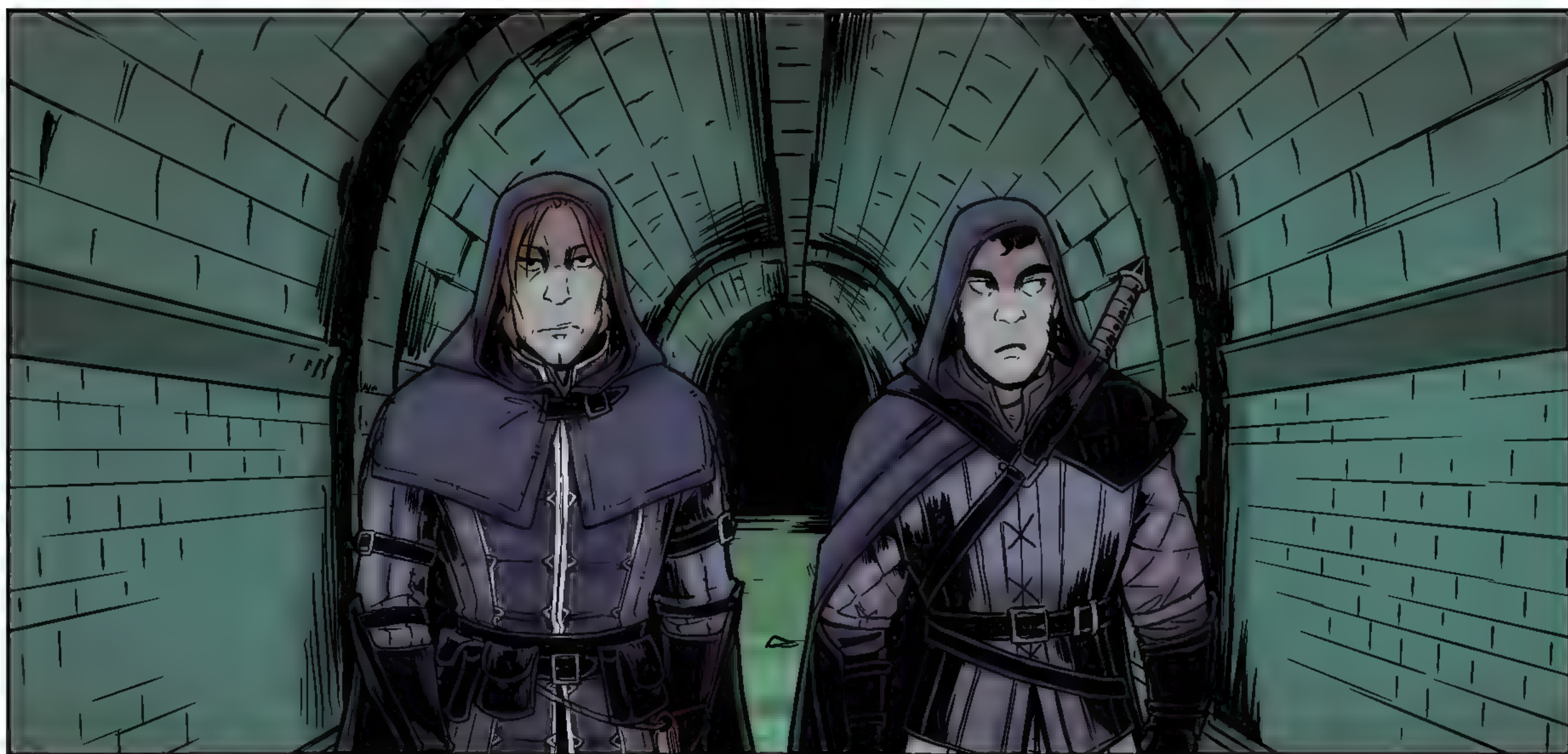
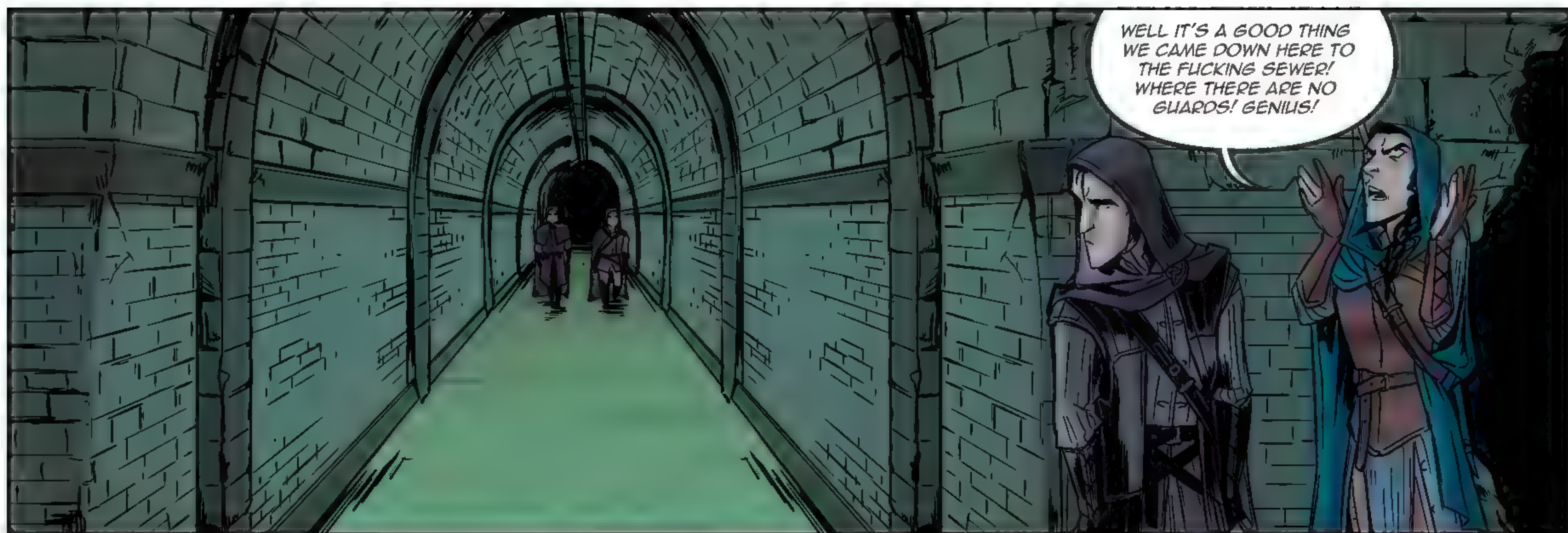
WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE GETS TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS BEFORE WE DO?

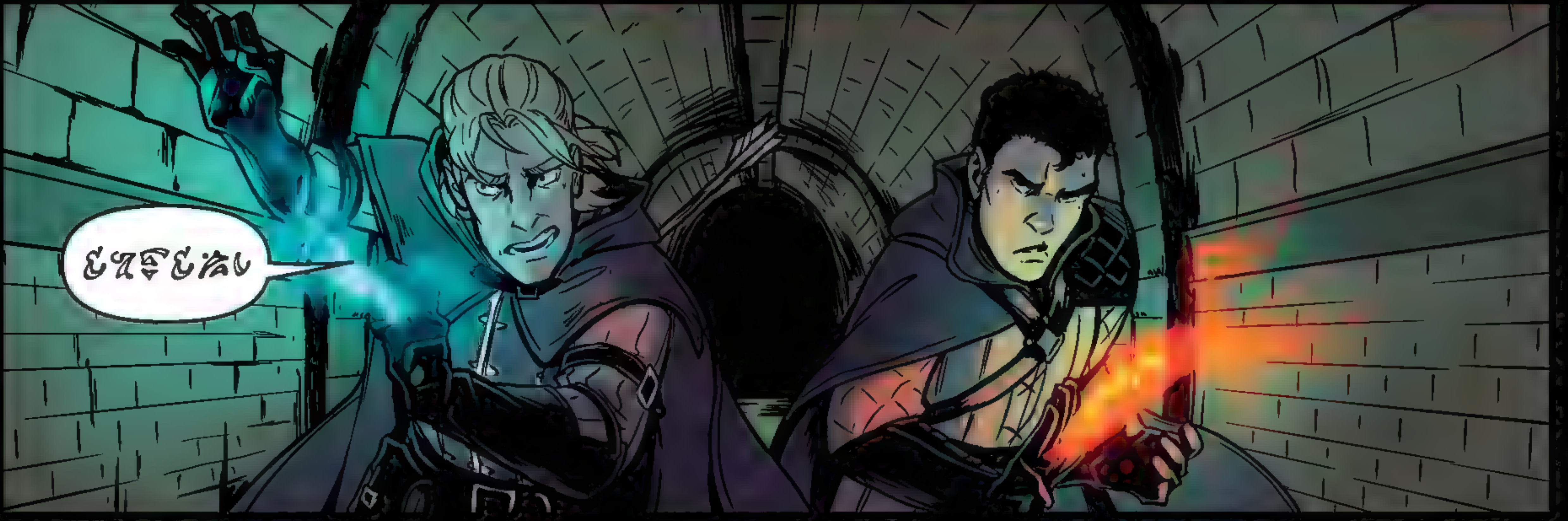
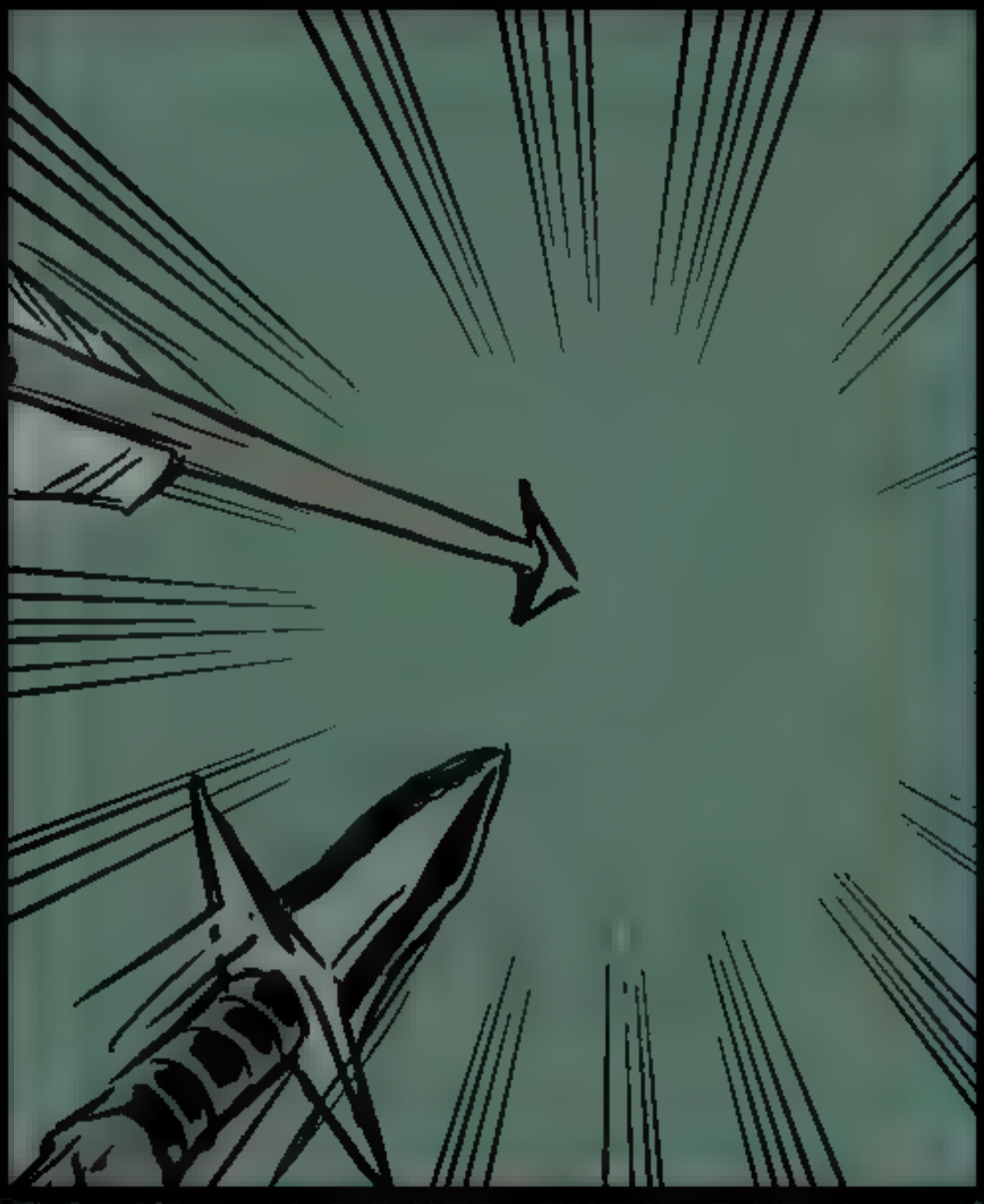
IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE RACE GOES TO THE MOST MOTIVATED.













THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS...BUT...



HURK



NICE SHOT!

EH. I GOT LUCKY.



SPELLS. EXOTIC. WE'RE MOVING UP IN THE WORLD.

SORCERER-ASSASSINS. IF THEY'D STUCK TO ONE JOB EACH, MAYBE WE'D BE IN TROUBLE.

LET'S GRAB THEIR OUTFITS. WE CAN FOLLOW ZETH DISGUISED AS THEM.



YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD DISGUISE OURSELVES AS OURSELVES, BUT POORER.

...



I GET EXCITED SOMETIMES. COME ON, WE HAVE TO CATCH UP TO ZETH.



I JUST WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE. I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.

WE GET THIS CURSE SORTED, YOU'LL BE HELPING SOMEONE ALL RIGHT. STITCH.

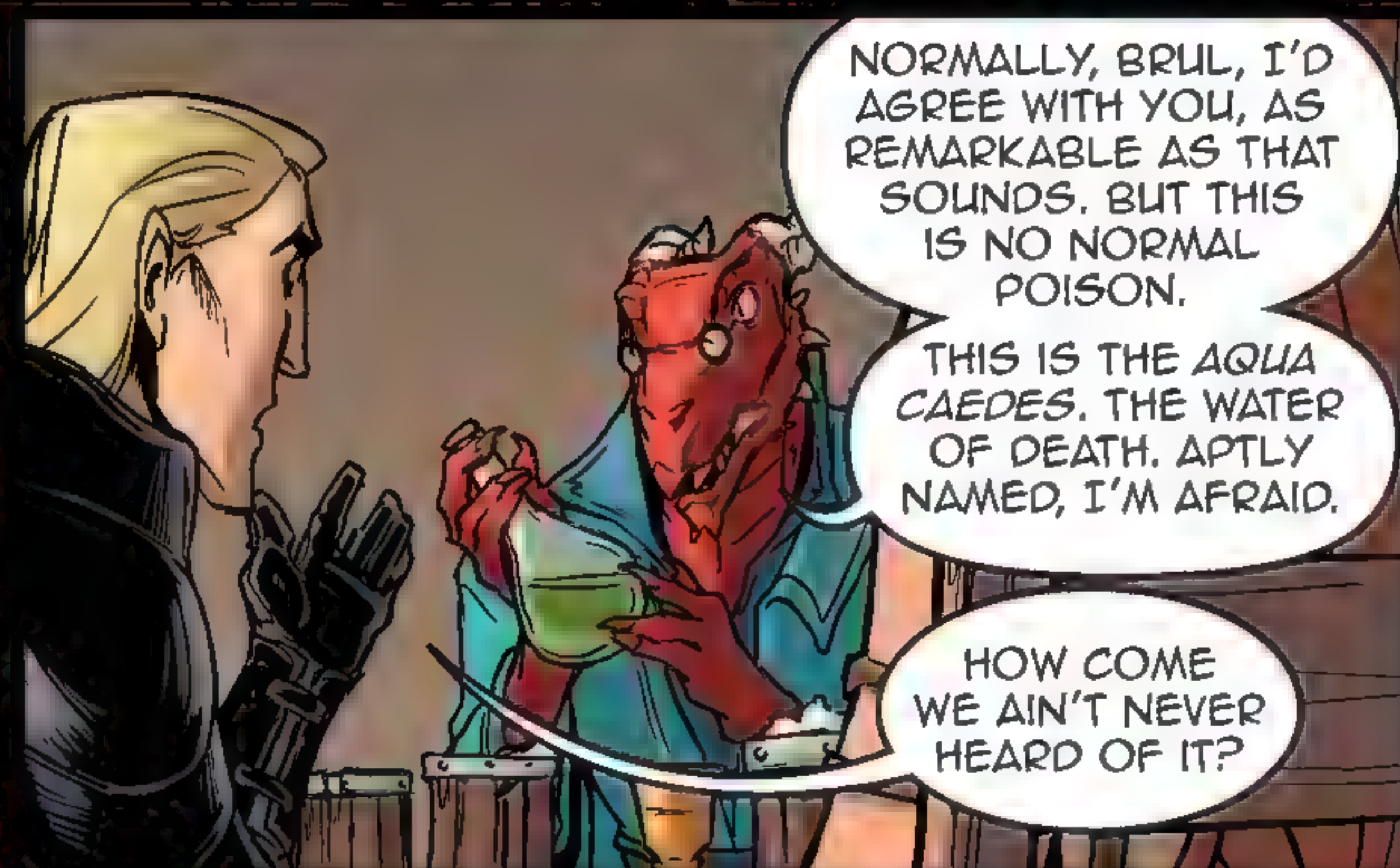
WE SHOULD HAVE TOLD SPIRELING HARROK WHAT WE KNEW.

WE DON'T KNOW SHIT.



WE KNOW THE MUCK ISN'T CURSED. THOSE PEOPLE ARE BEING POISONED.

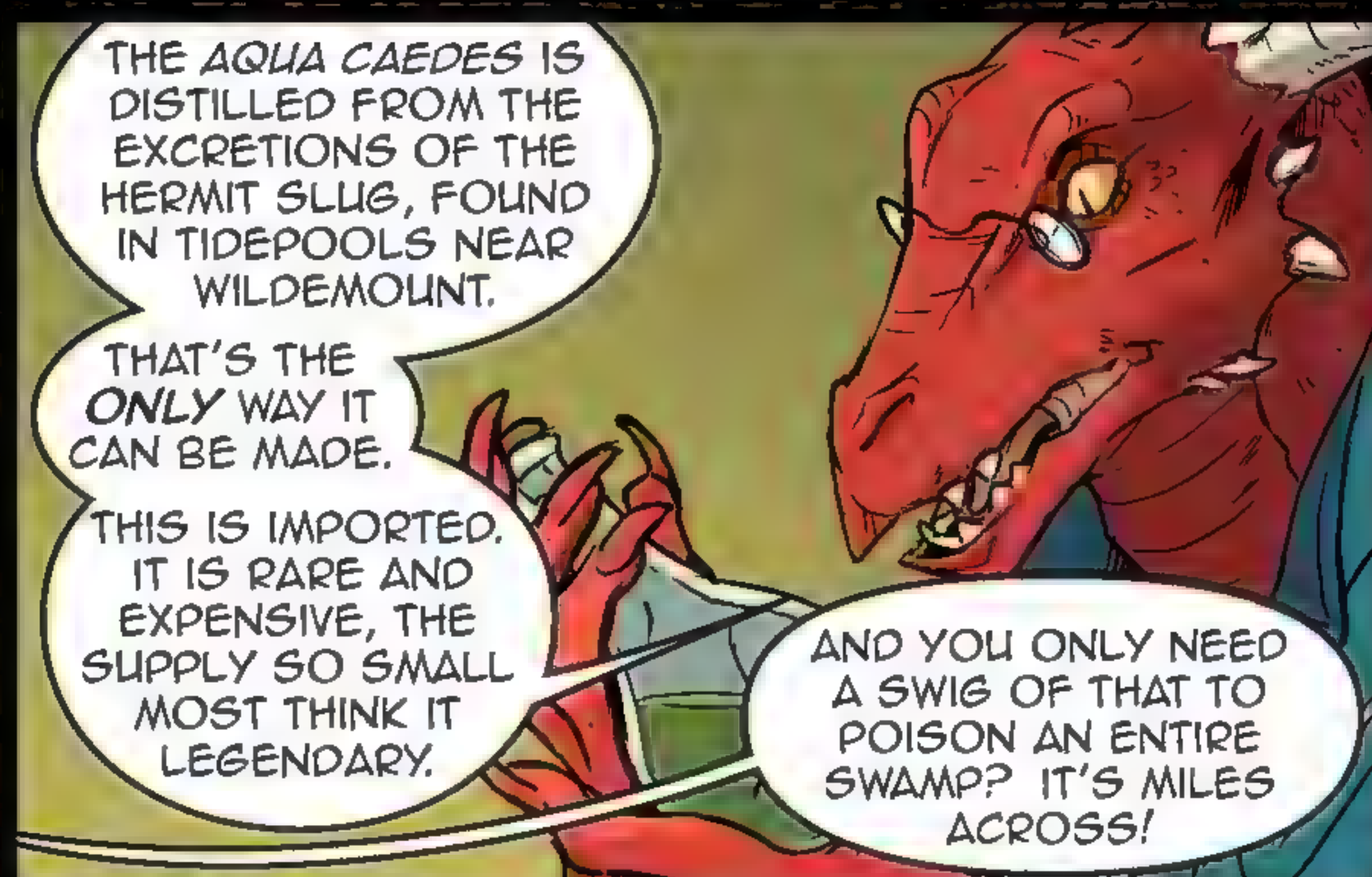
DON'T MAKE NO SENSE. AIN'T ENOUGH POISON IN THE WHOLE CITY.



NORMALLY, BRUL, I'D AGREE WITH YOU, AS REMARKABLE AS THAT SOUNDS. BUT THIS IS NO NORMAL POISON.

THIS IS THE AQUA CAEDES. THE WATER OF DEATH. APTLY NAMED, I'M AFRAID.

HOW COME WE AIN'T NEVER HEARD OF IT?

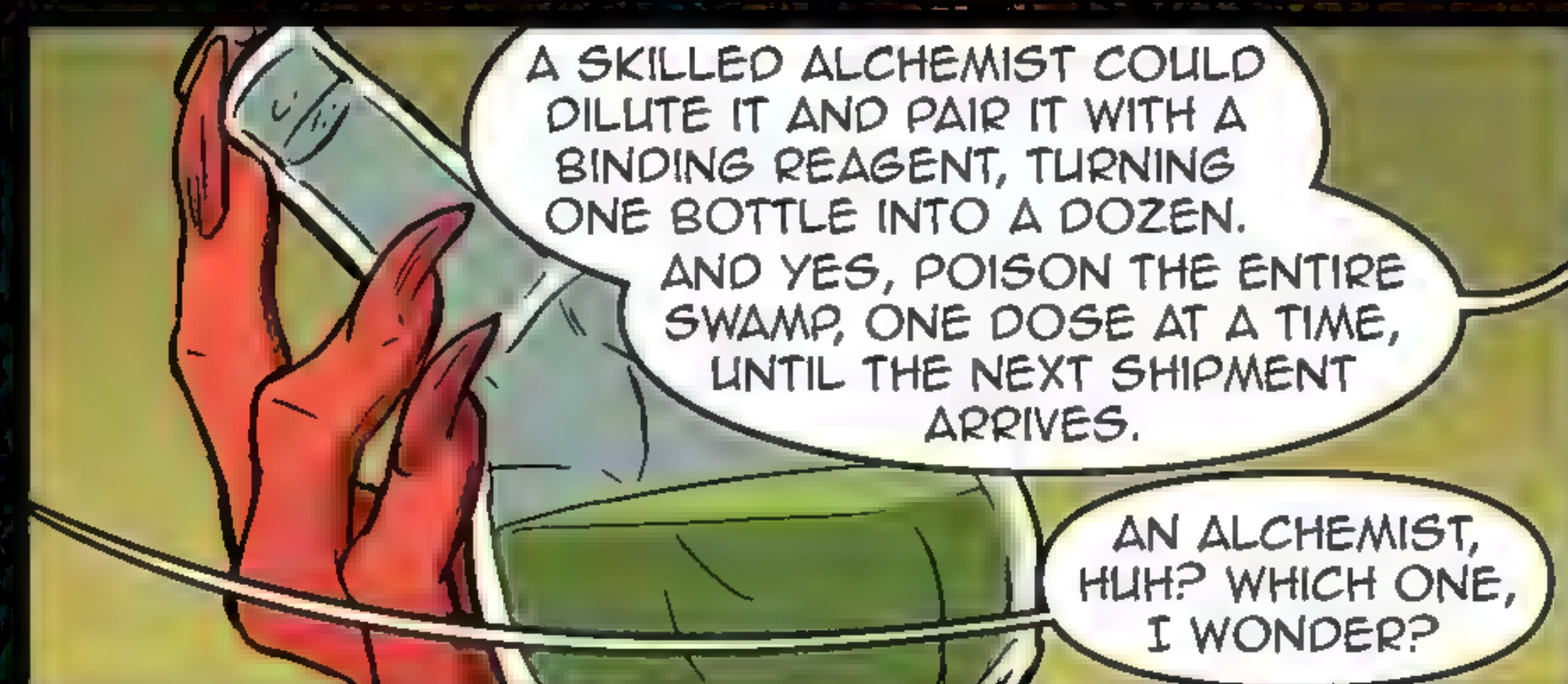


THE AQUA CAEDES IS DISTILLED FROM THE EXCRETIONS OF THE HERMIT SLUG, FOUND IN TIDEPOLS NEAR WILDEMOUNT.

THAT'S THE **ONLY** WAY IT CAN BE MADE.

THIS IS IMPORTED. IT IS RARE AND EXPENSIVE, THE SUPPLY SO SMALL MOST THINK IT LEGENDARY.

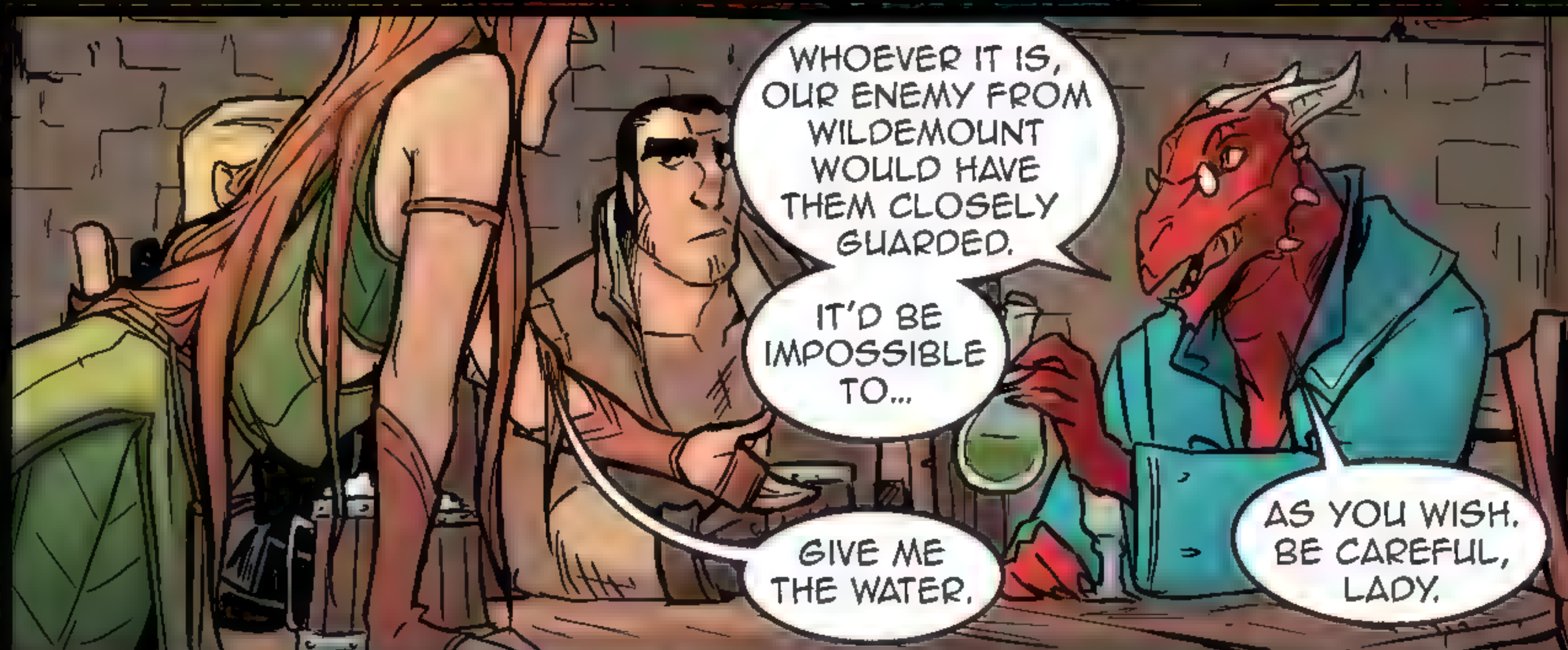
AND YOU ONLY NEED A SWIG OF THAT TO POISON AN ENTIRE SWAMP? IT'S MILES ACROSS!



A SKILLED ALCHEMIST COULD DILUTE IT AND PAIR IT WITH A BINDING REAGENT, TURNING ONE BOTTLE INTO A DOZEN.

AND YES, POISON THE ENTIRE SWAMP, ONE DOSE AT A TIME, UNTIL THE NEXT SHIPMENT ARRIVES.

AN ALCHEMIST, HUH? WHICH ONE, I WONDER?



WHOEVER IT IS, OUR ENEMY FROM WILDEMOUNT WOULD HAVE THEM CLOSELY GUARDED.

IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO...

GIVE ME THE WATER.

AS YOU WISH. BE CAREFUL, LADY.



ALL RIGHT, I CAN FIND IT. IF YOU'RE RIGHT AND IT'S ONLY BEING BREWED IN ONE PLACE.

YOU CAN FIND IT? BUT HOW?



FWOOOSH!

OH YES, OF COURSE. EXCELLENT.

ALL RIGHT, ME AND BRUL, GONNA HEAD DOWN TO THE MUCK, SEE IF WE CAN CATCH SIGHT OF ANYONE CURSING OR POISONING ANYONE. YOU TWO... FOLLOW YOUR NOSE.



I COMPLETELY AGREE. I FIND THE ENTIRE LOT OF THEM UTTERLY REPELLENT, PRESENT COMPANY EXCLUDED, OF COURSE.

WOOF!

OH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE, HOWEVER.

GROWL.

WELL THAT SEEMS EXTREME, BUT I AGREE WITH THE SENTIMENT.



THE SCENT IS GETTING FRESHER, RIGHT?

WUF.



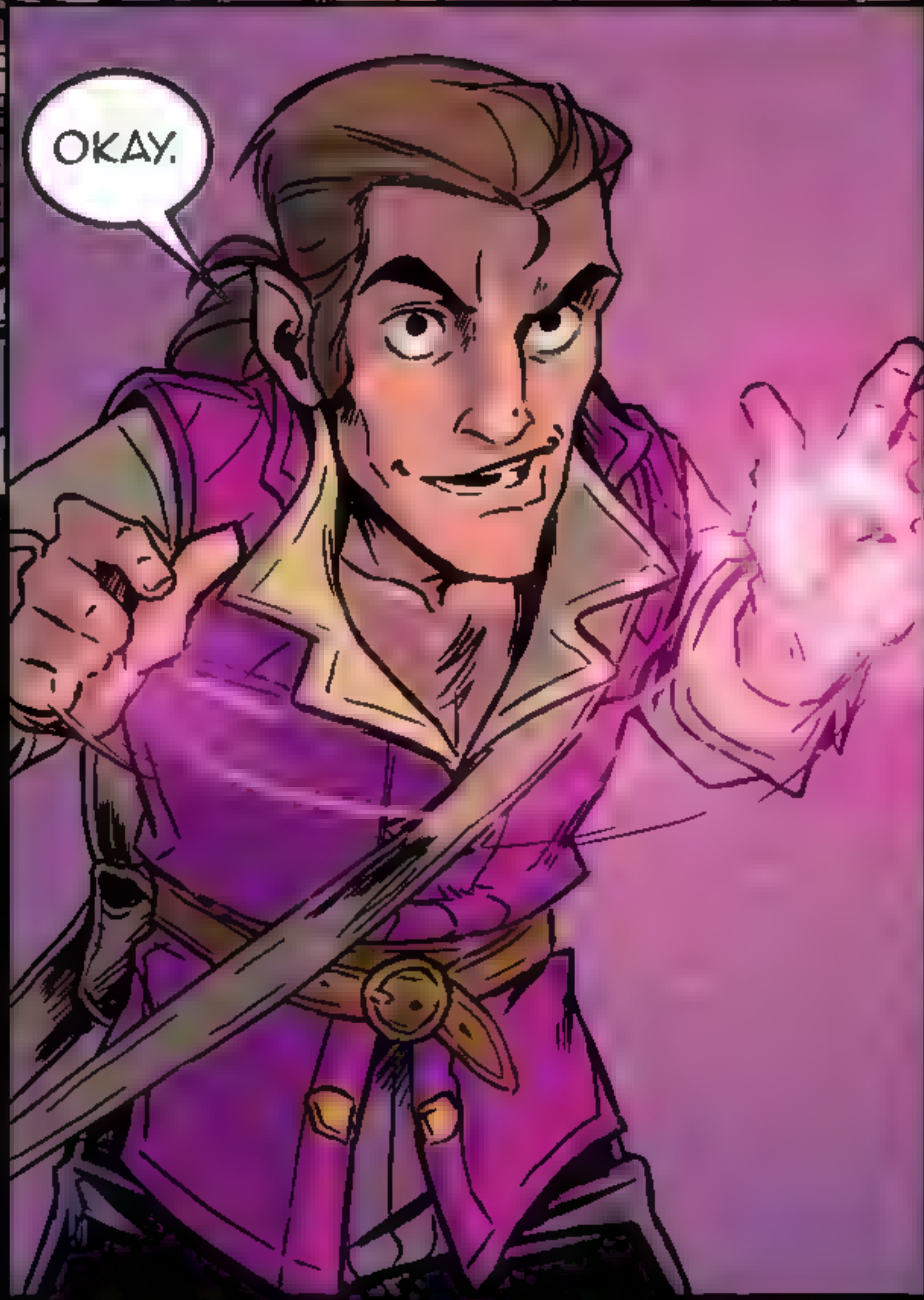
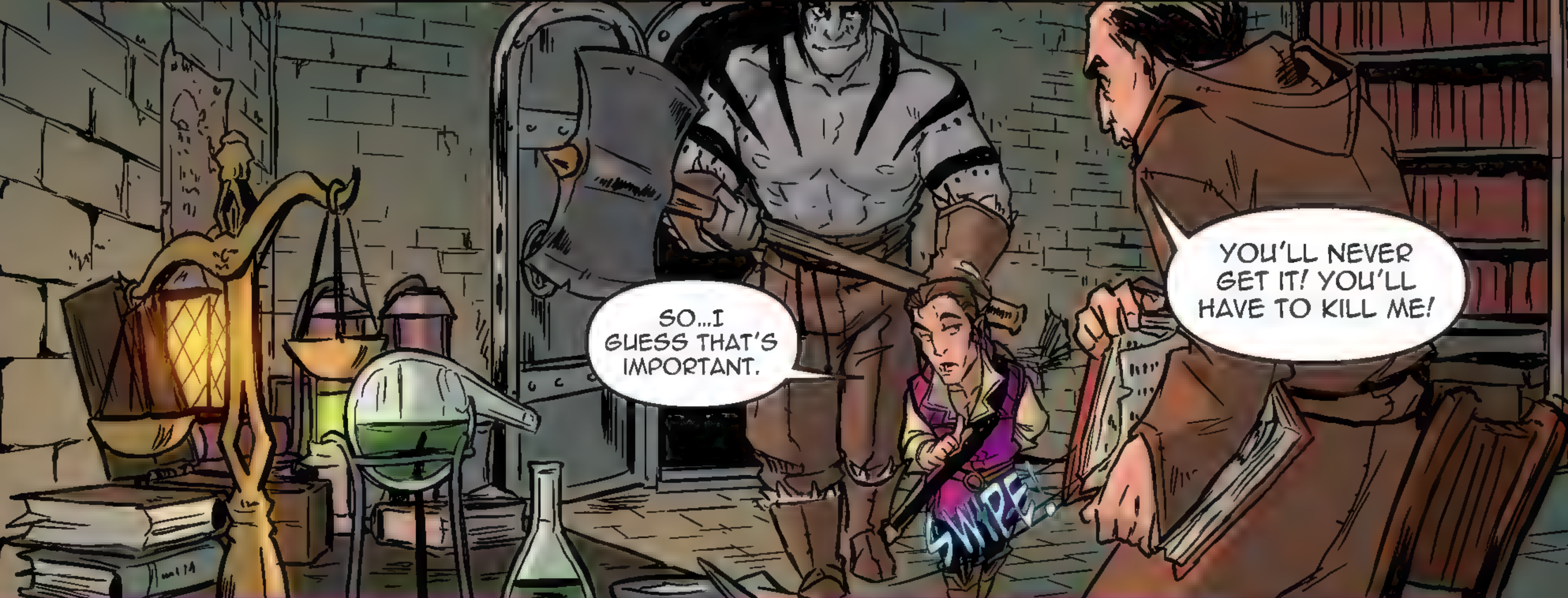
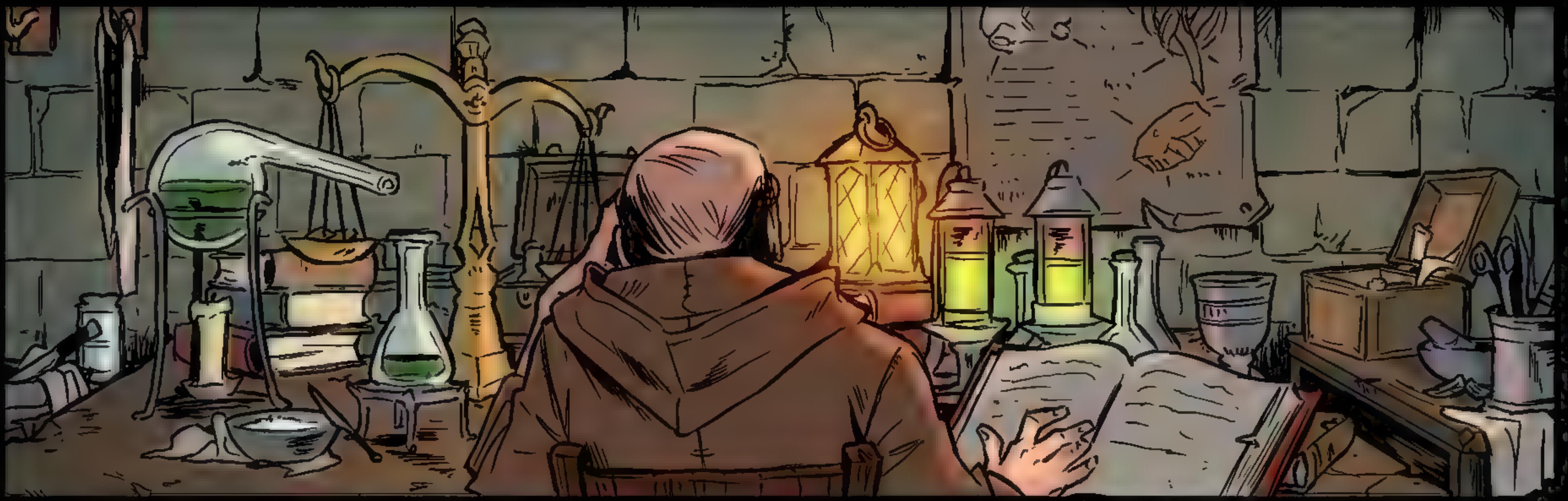
GOOD. I WAS WORRIED WE MIGHT BE GOING BACKWARD.

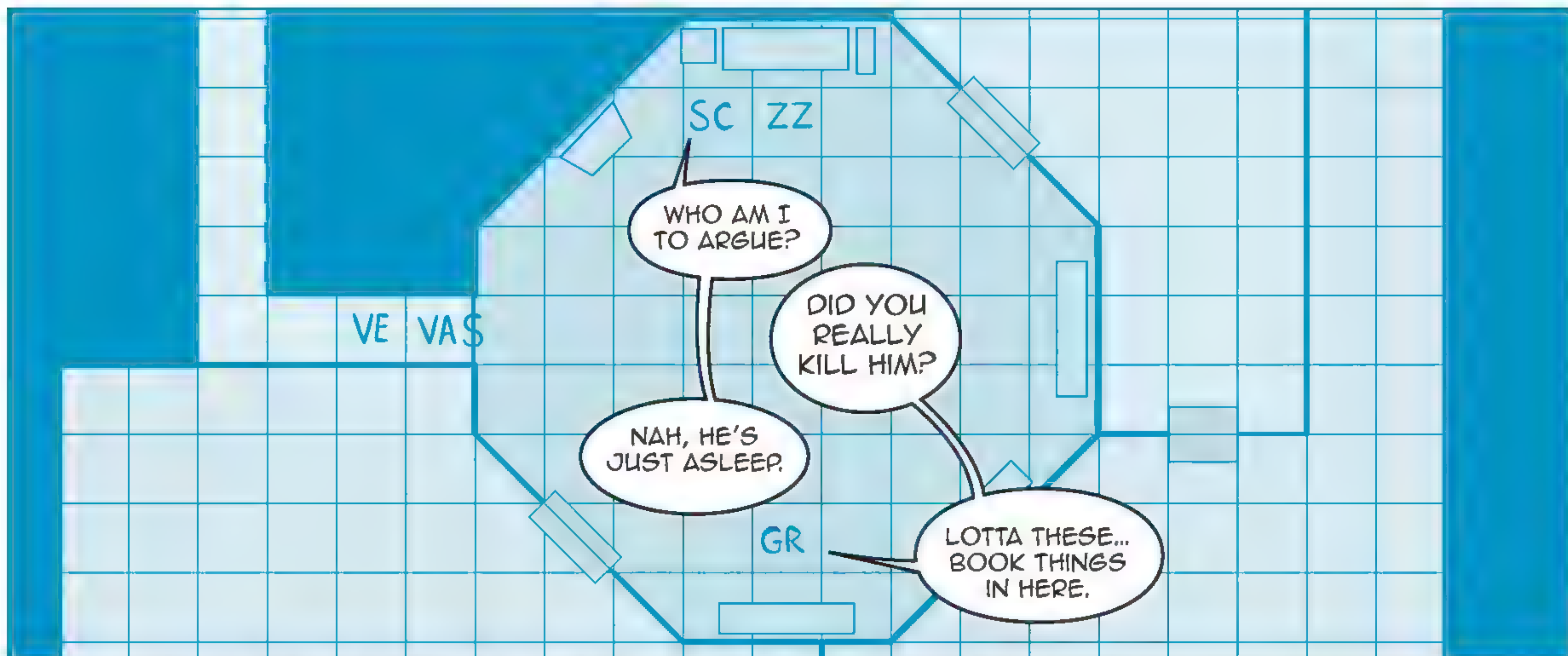


THIS CONVERSATION WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LESS ABSURD IF I COULD UNDERSTAND YOU.

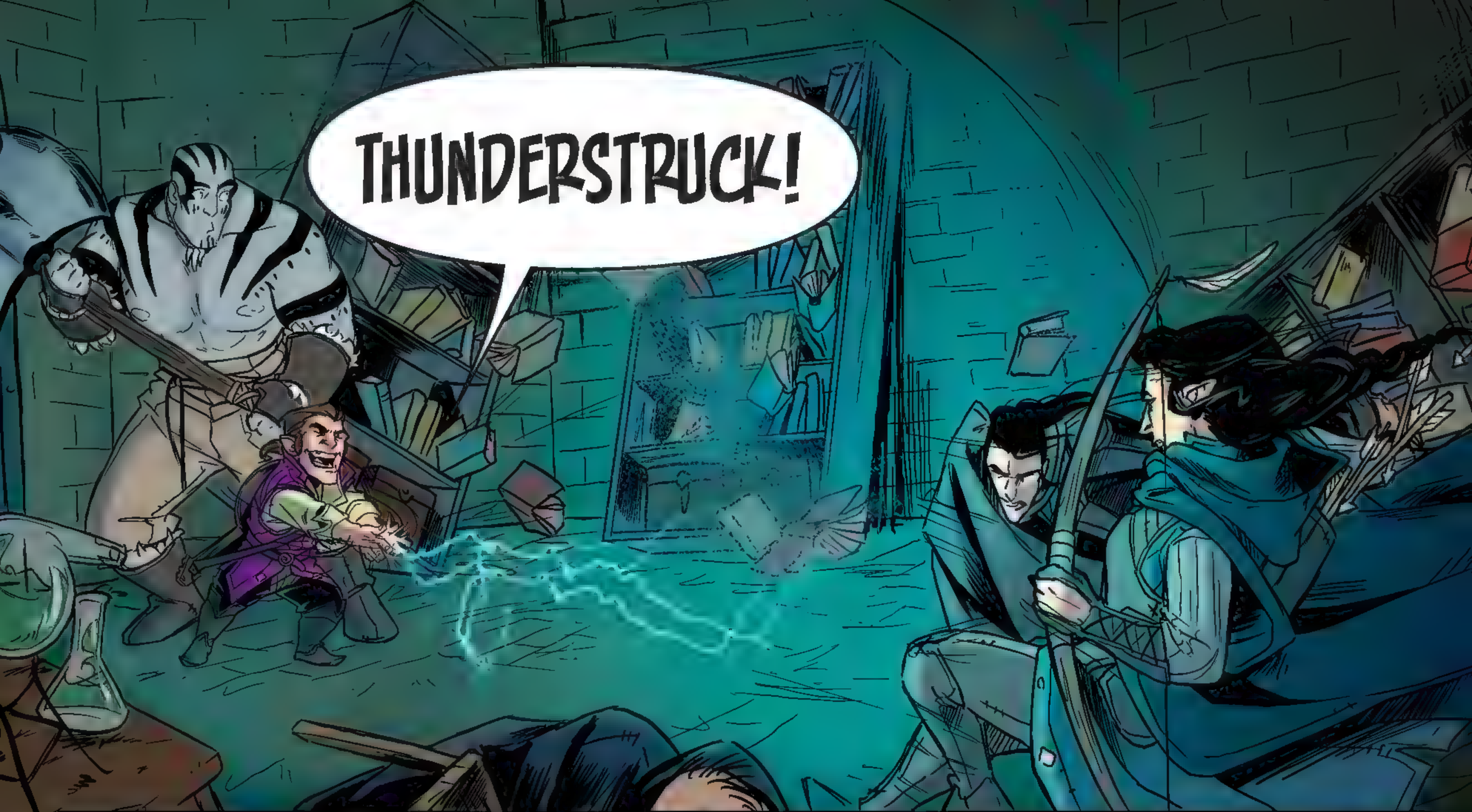
WOOF.

OH, REALLY? I HADN'T CONSIDERED THAT.





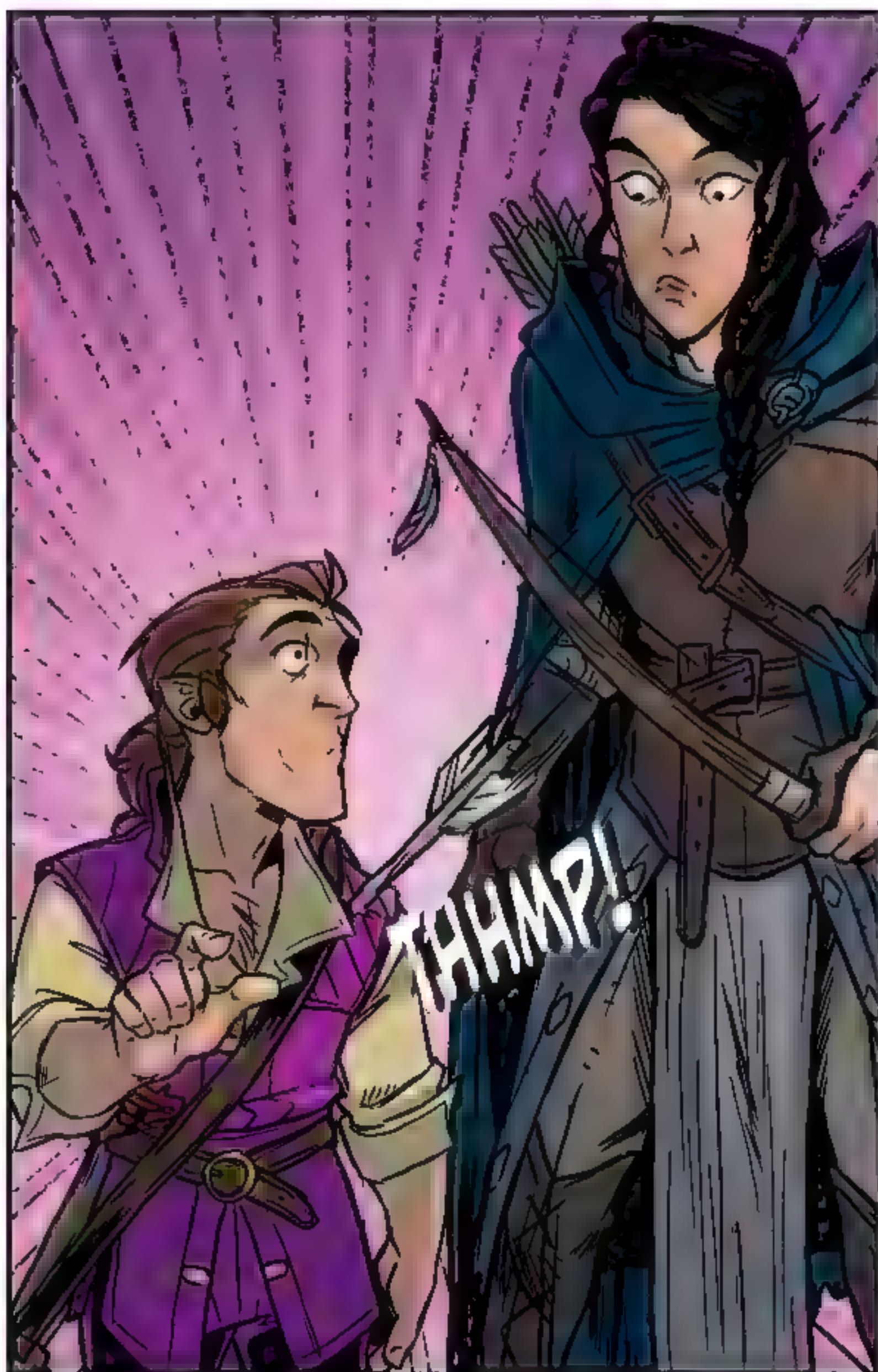




THUNDERSTRUCK!



UM,
DIDN'T WE
KILL YOU
GUYS?





IS THAT...WOW,
DID THE OTHER
GUYS LET YOU GO
OUT LIKE THAT?



WHAT?
LIKE...
WHAT?



WELL, HAVE
YOU SEEN WHAT
THEY'RE WEARING?

Y-YEAH?



LOOK AT 'EM. ALL...
BLACK AND COOL.
THAT HALFLING GOT
HIS OUTFIT TAILORED.
MAKES HIM LOOK
BLUFF.

WOW, YEAH IT
DOES. I DIDN'T
NOTICE...

AND THE ELF,
WHAT IS THAT,
SILK? I BET
IT'S SILK.
THAT HAS TO
BE EXPENSIVE.

HE...HE'S
SENIOR, MAN,
HE CAN
AFFORD IT.



I MEAN, I'M SURE
YOU'RE DOING YOUR
BEST. IT'S JUST...

I KNOW. THEY TOLD ME
I HAD TO PROVIDE MY
OWN OUTFIT, BUT...

I CAN TELL. LOOK, I
DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL
BAD, BUT WHEN YOU DON'T
TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY...

LISTEN, I'M
DOING MY BEST,
OKAY?! YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE A
SHIT ABOUT IT LIKE
EVERYONE ELSE!

I KNOW I'M
NEW, AND I'M NOT...
YOU KNOW, I
DON'T HAVE MONEY
LIKE EVERYONE
ELSE, BUT...



"WHY DON'T YOU
GO SING A SONG?"
"WHY DON'T YOU GO
PAINT YOUR ROOM
BLACK, YOU EMO
BALLBAG?" YEAH!



WHERE'D
THAT
HALF-ELF
GO?



HEY!
ASSHOLE!



OH SHIT...





උහුඋහු ආහුඋහු
ආහුඋහුඋහු



I'M PRETTY
CONFUSED
RIGHT NOW.

YEAH, I THINK THERE'S A LOT
OF PLOT THREADS SORT OF
CONVERGING IN THIS SCENE.
USUALLY WHEN
THAT HAPPENS
NOT EVERYONE...



SQUEEK

...SURVIVES.

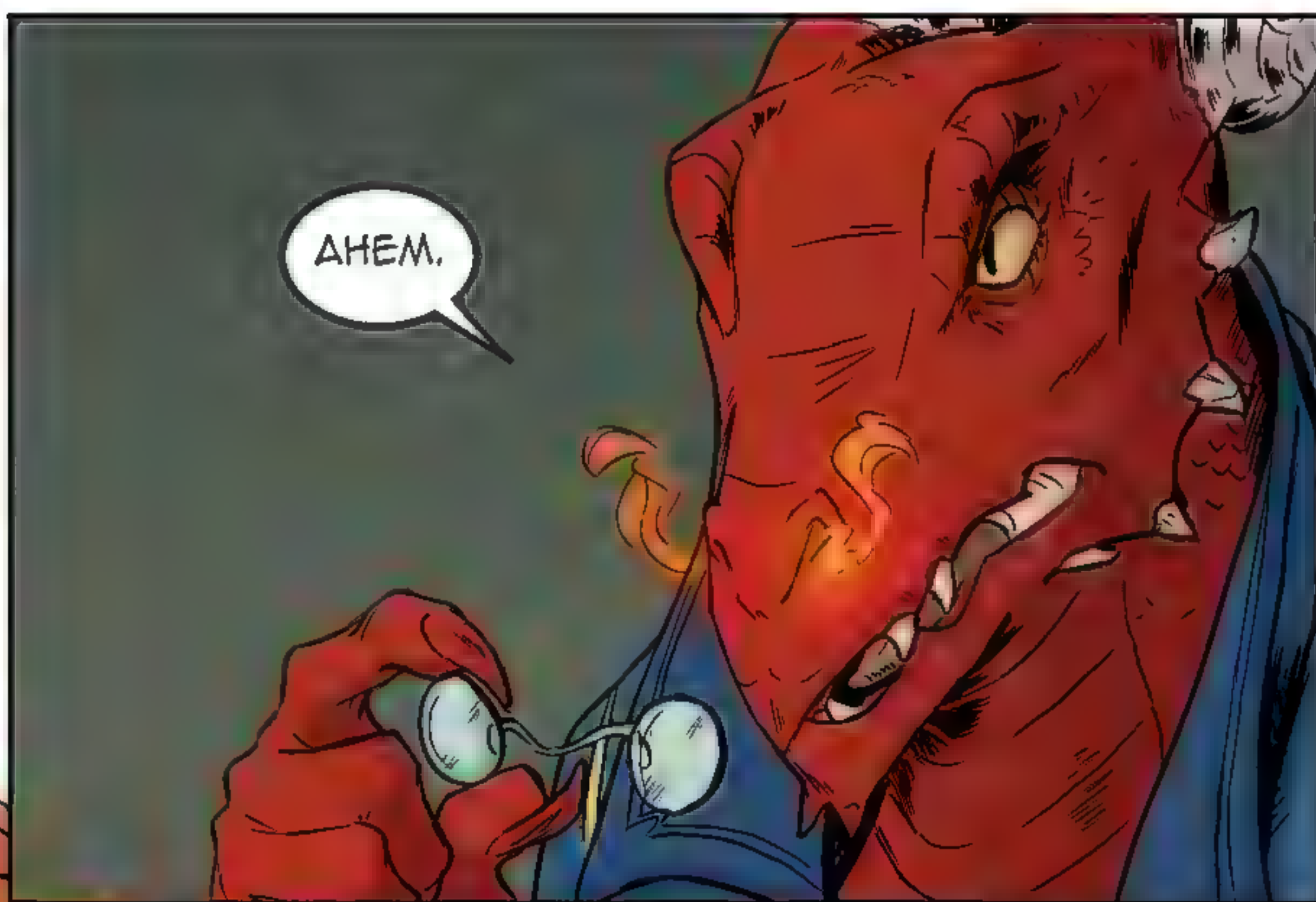


WELL, THERE'S A LOT
OF SMELLS DOWN
HERE, OKAY? IT'S EASY
TO LOSE...SOMEONE.

THE DRUID!

THE SORCERER!

OH, IT'S THE TWINS!
WOW, I'M REALLY
GLAD YOU GUYS
ARE STILL ALIVE!





WE WILL!
WE WILL!
FUCK
YOU!



WAIT! NOT IN
THE FACE!



THESE PEOPLE
ARE SO DUMB.



SO...DID ANYONE
NOTICE
HOW ALL OF A SUDDEN
THERE WERE SIX ASSASSINS
IN HERE EVEN THOUGH NONE
OF THE DOORS OPENED?



THAT'S WHERE
DOSE ASSASSINS
CAME FROM!
I SAW IT!



IT'S NOT MAGICAL.
NO IDEA WHY I
BOTHERED LEARNING
THAT SPELL.

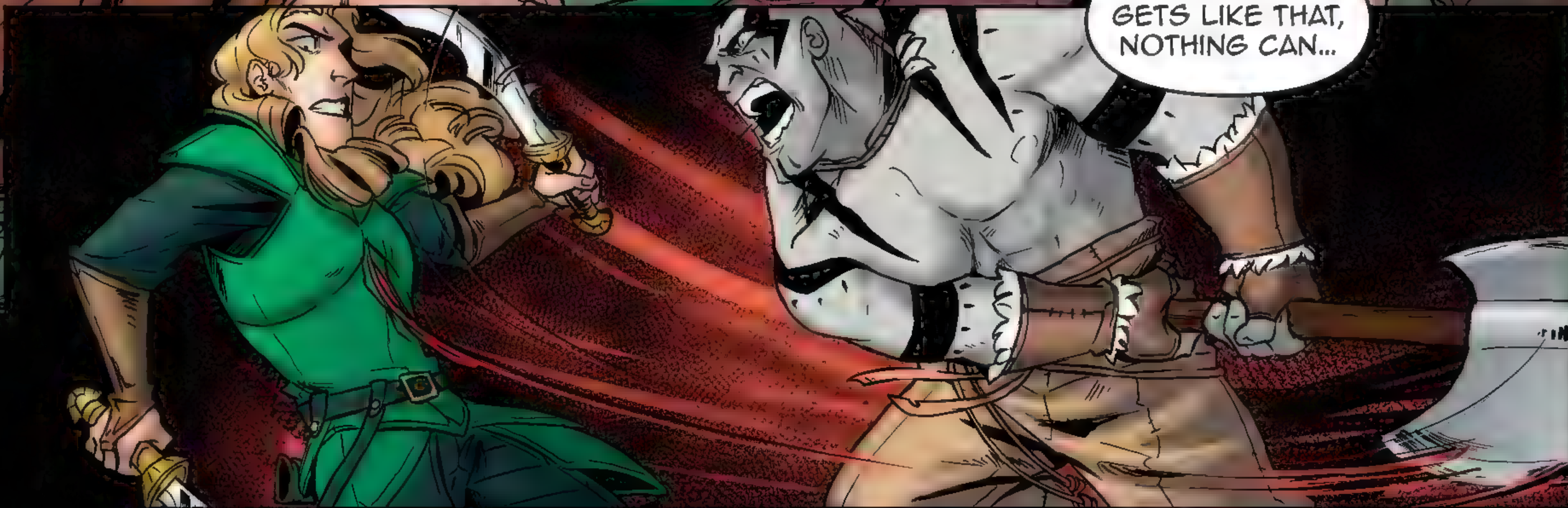


GROG, ARE YOU
SURE THEY WEREN'T
JUST HIDING IN THE...

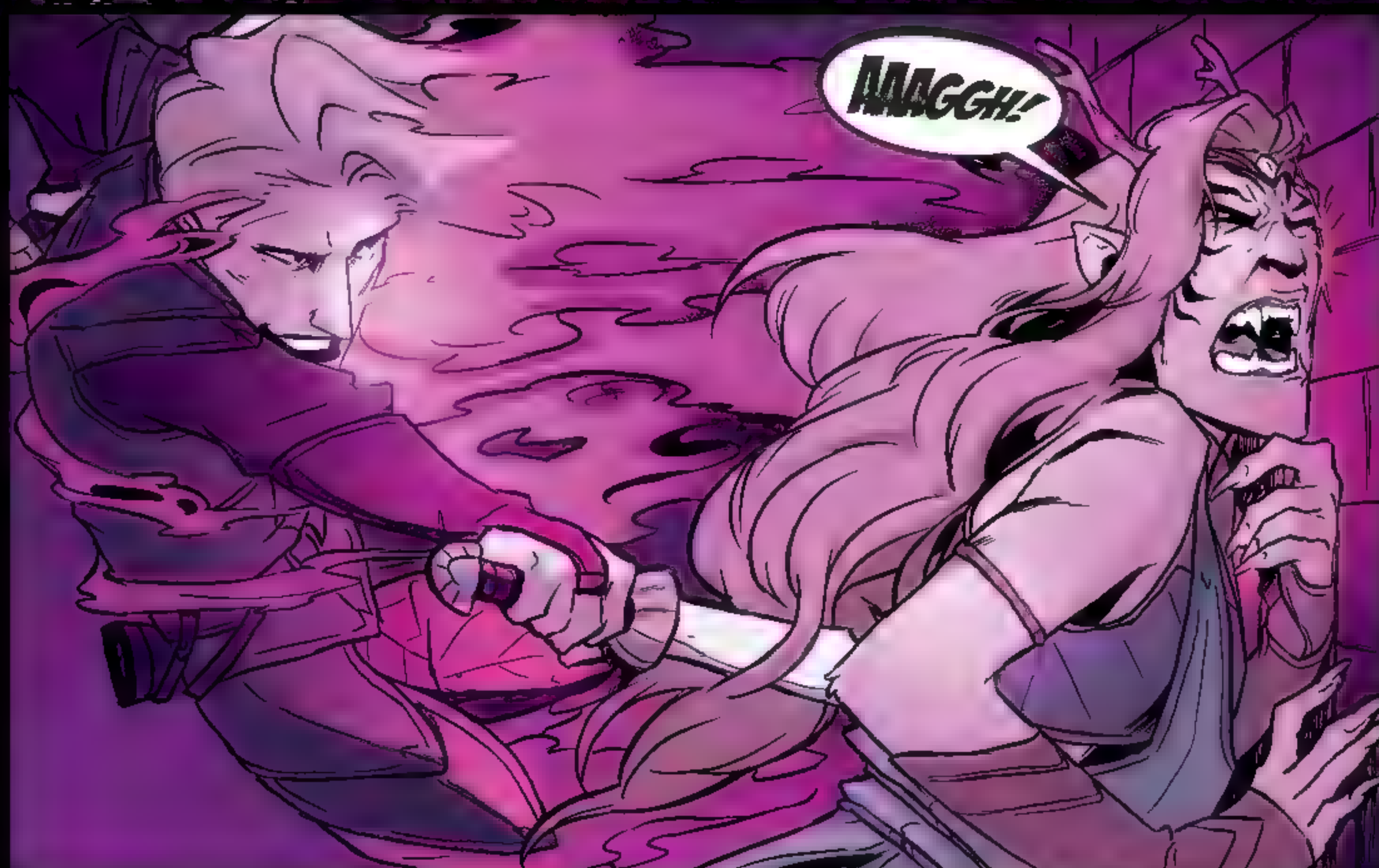
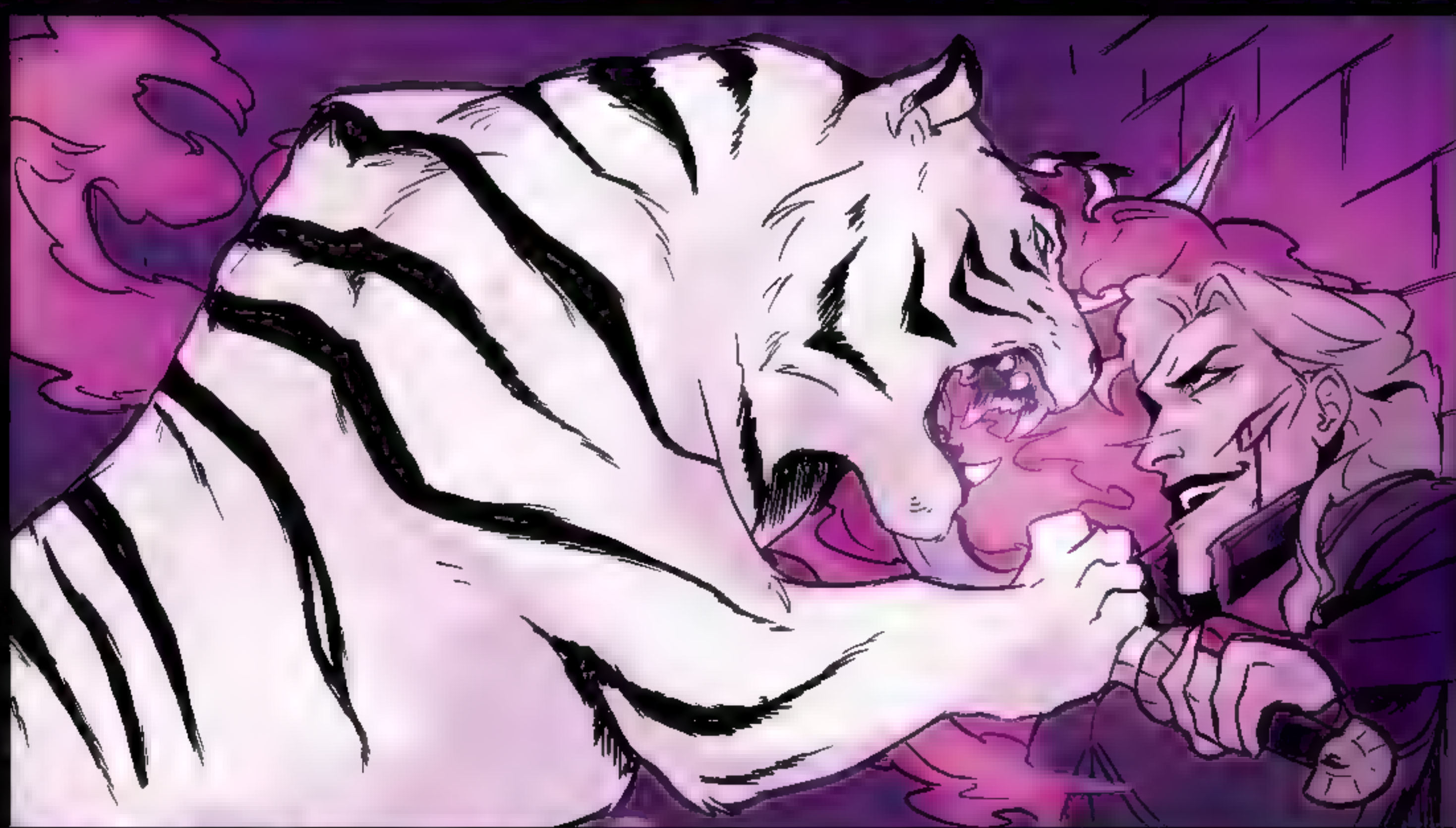


AAUUGH!
STOP IT!

IF YOU WANT
SOMETHING
DONE RIGHT...

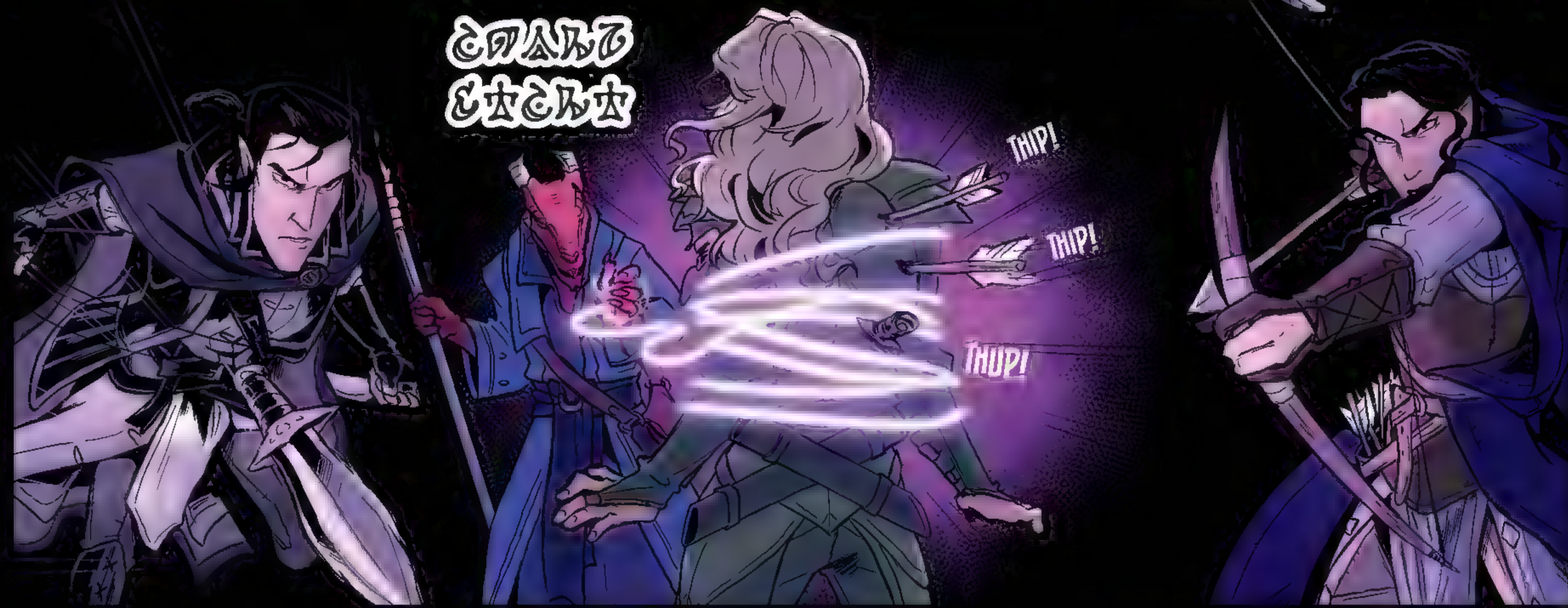








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THUP!

THUP!

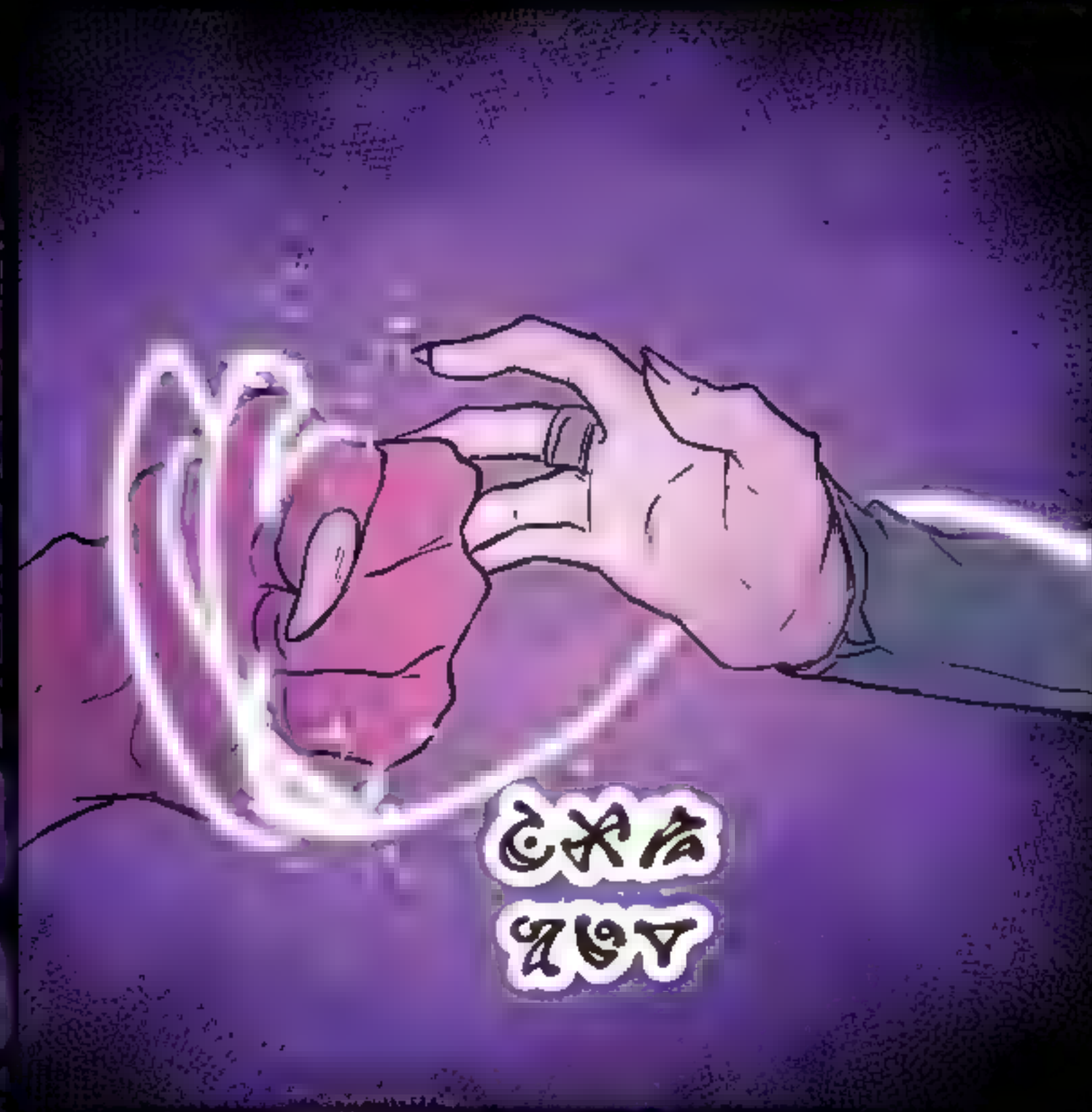
THUP!



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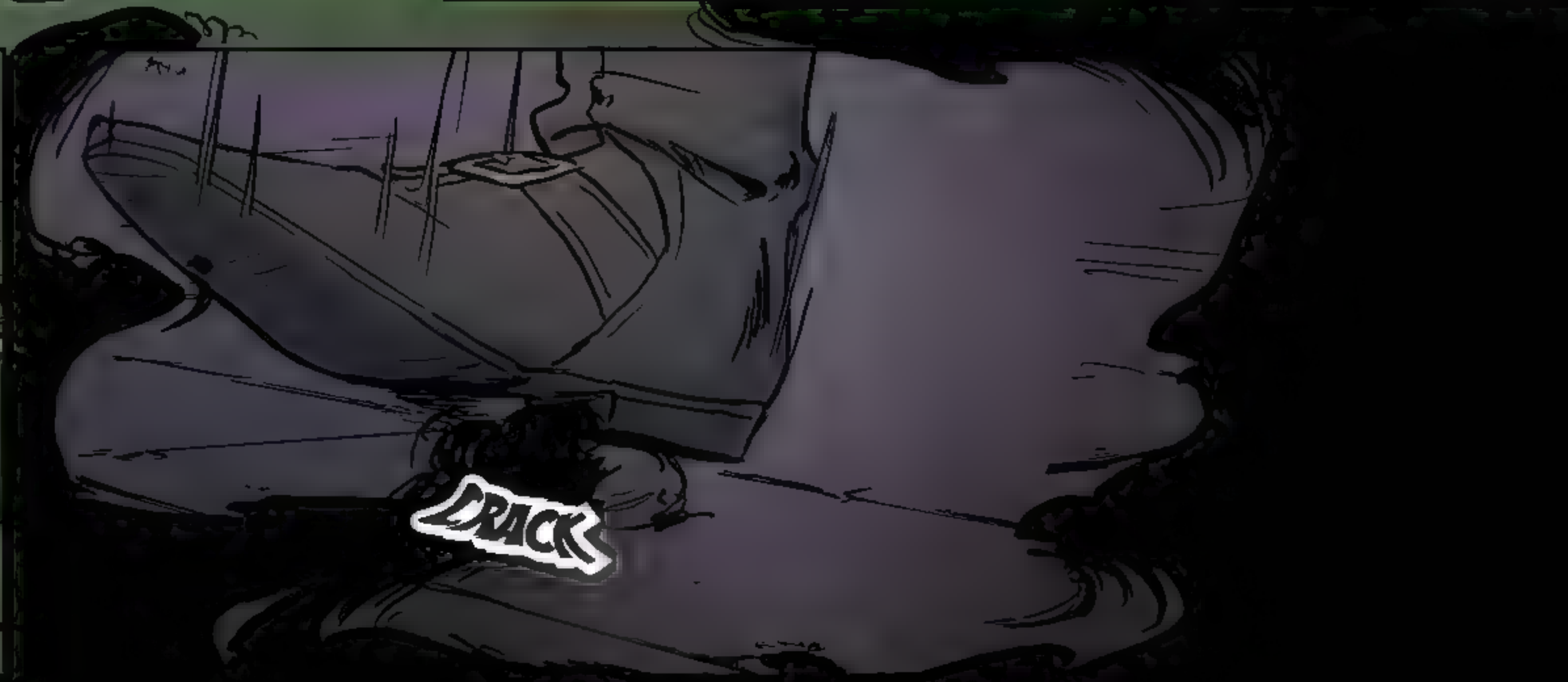
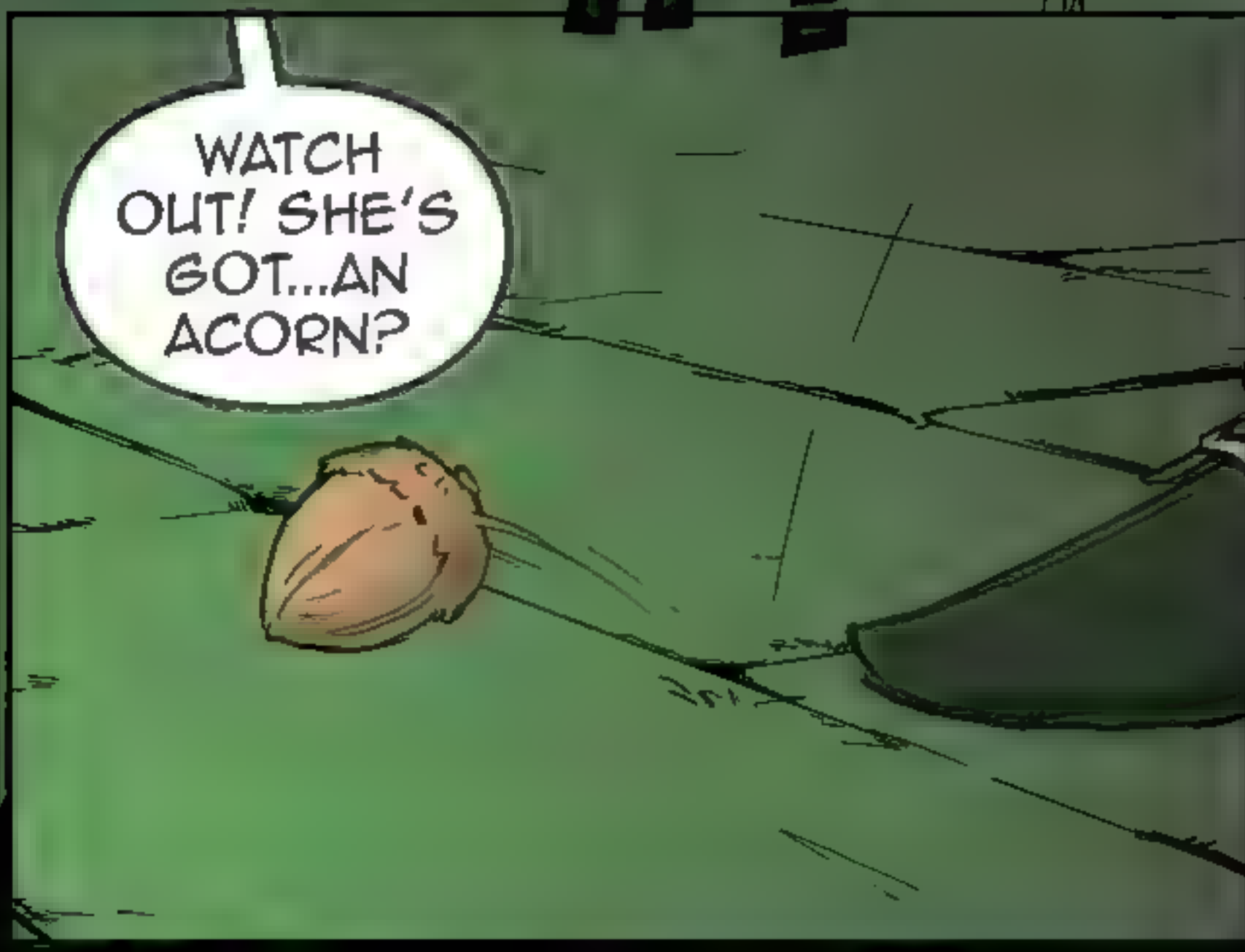
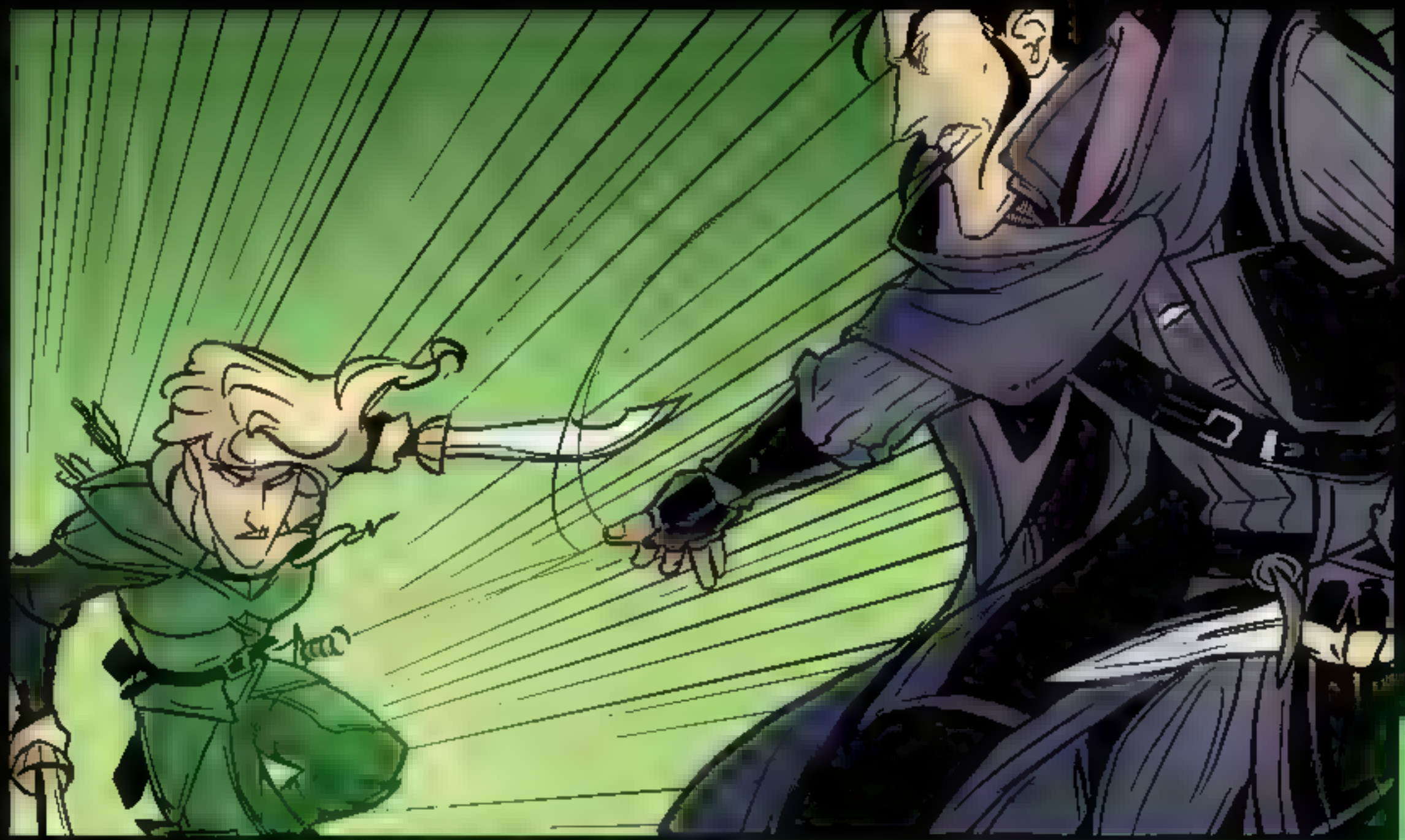


I SAY!
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UNGH!

SHIT,
SORRY!

I'M
GONNA
DIE.

BITCH, LEAVE
MY FRIENDS
ALONE!

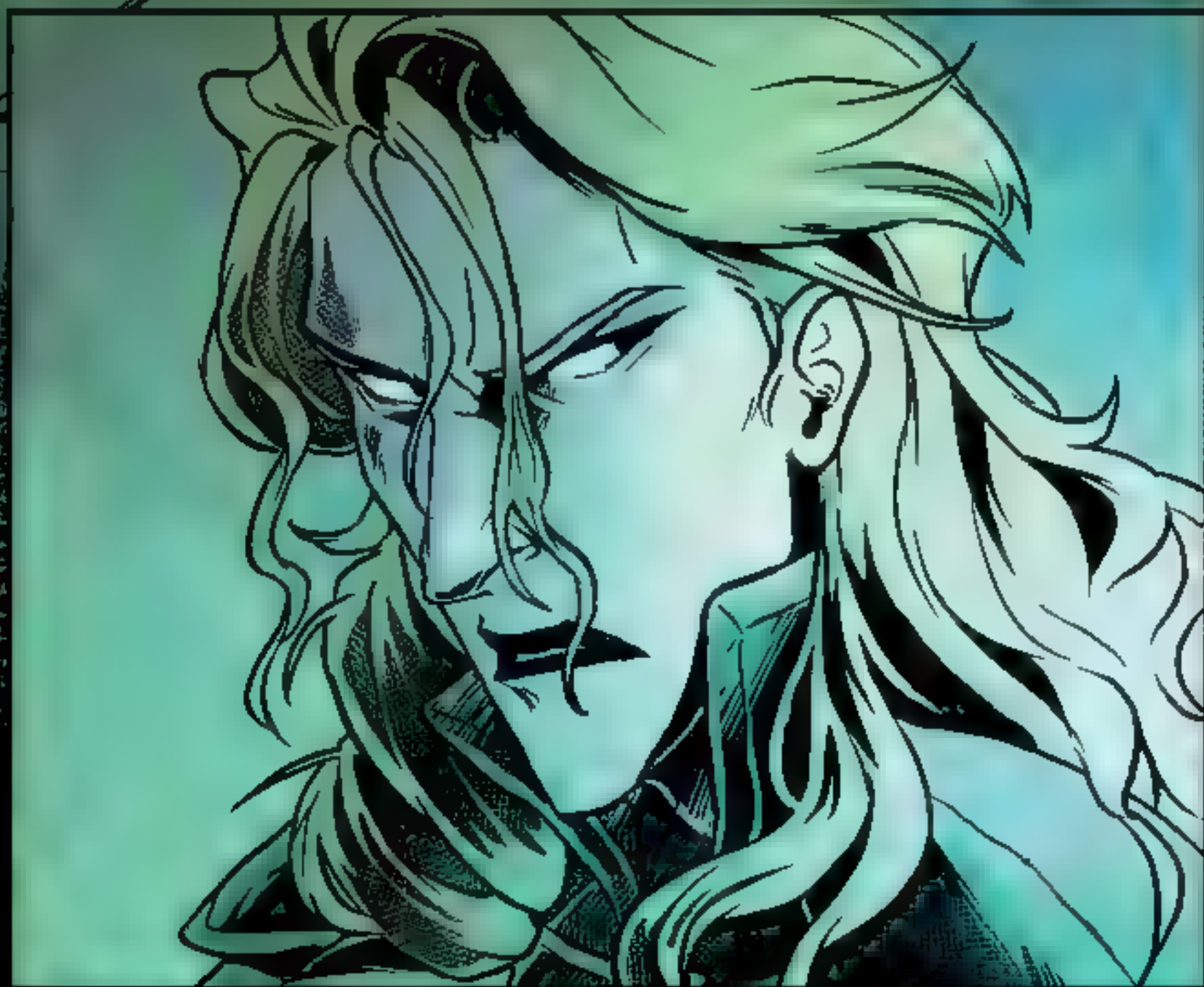
I'M GONNA
DIE HERE IN THE
DARK WITH GROG
AND A BUNCH OF
ASSHOLES.

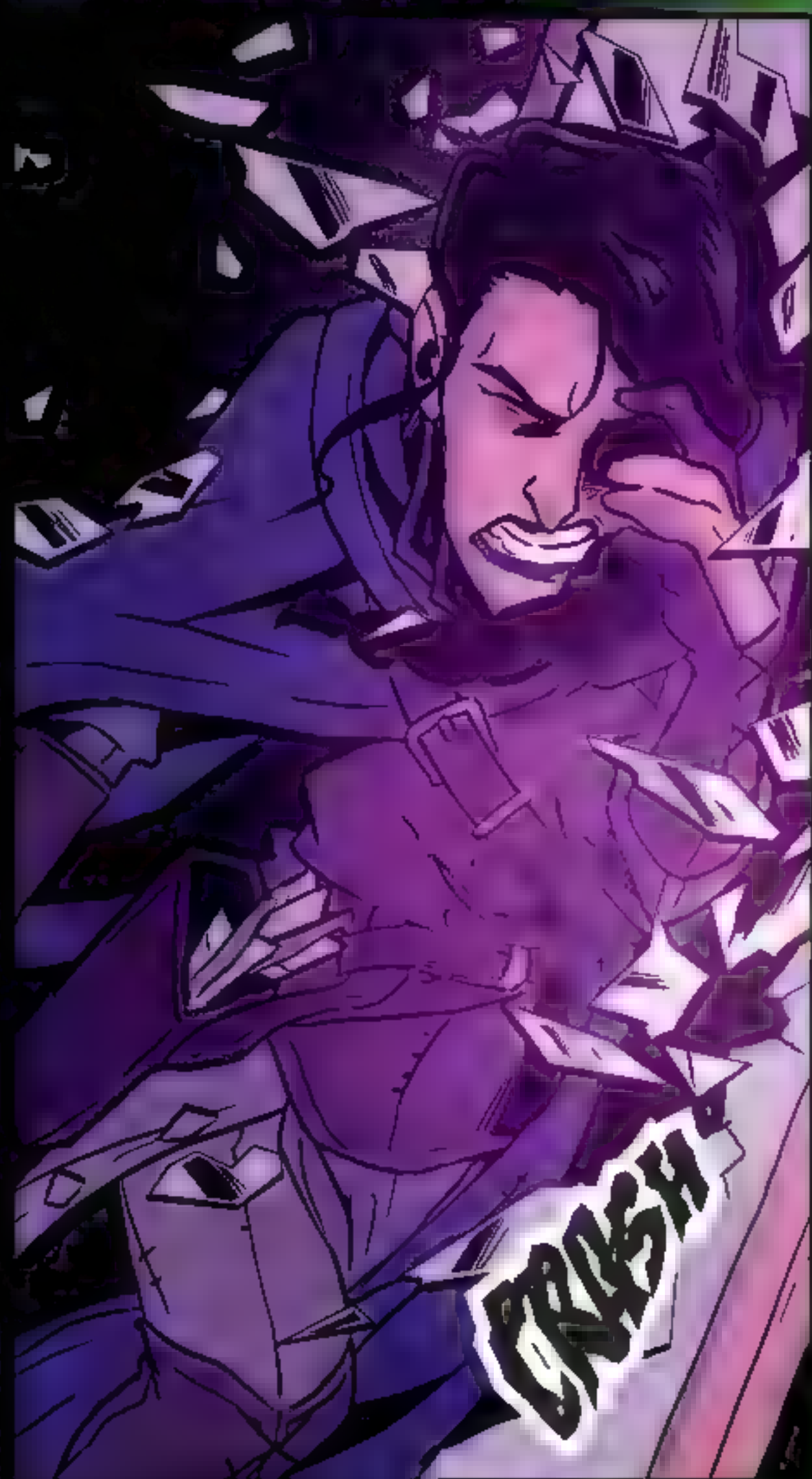
I COULD USE A
HEALER! NEVER
THOUGHT I'D MISS
ARNICOR AND THURISTA.
AT LEAST SHE HAD
THAT WAND OF...
OH, MY GOD.

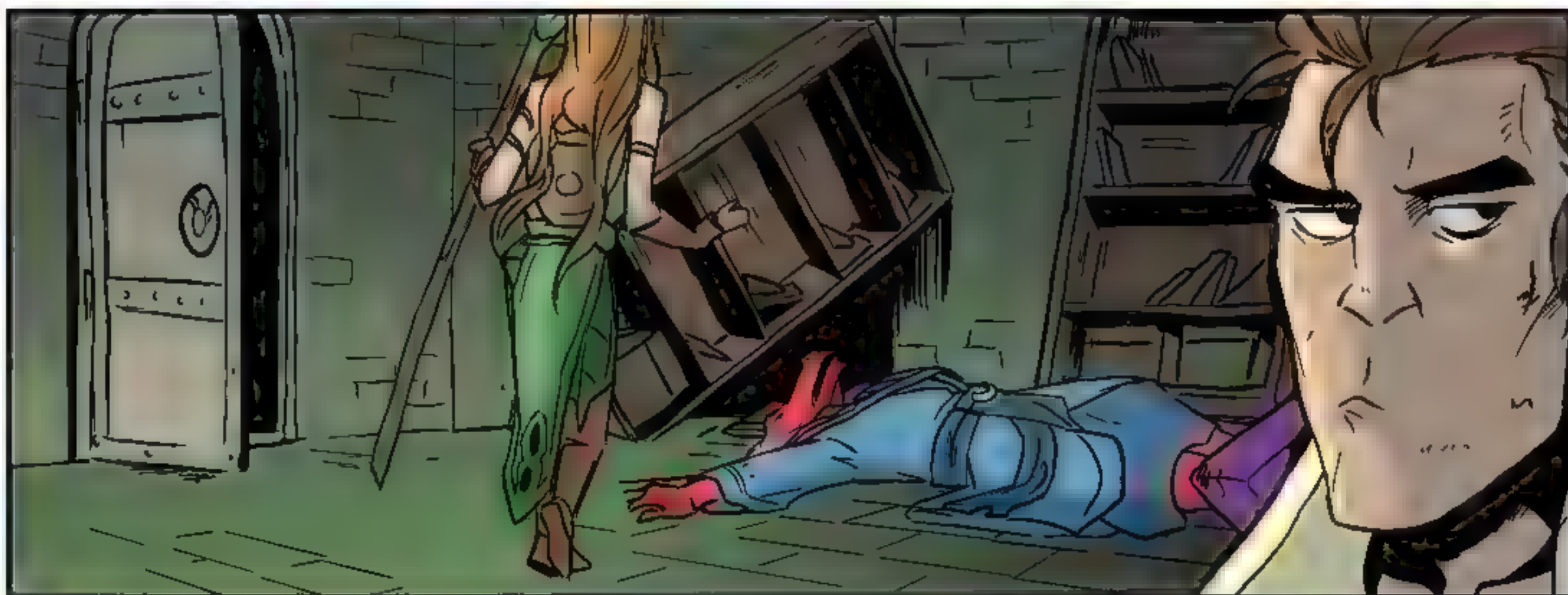
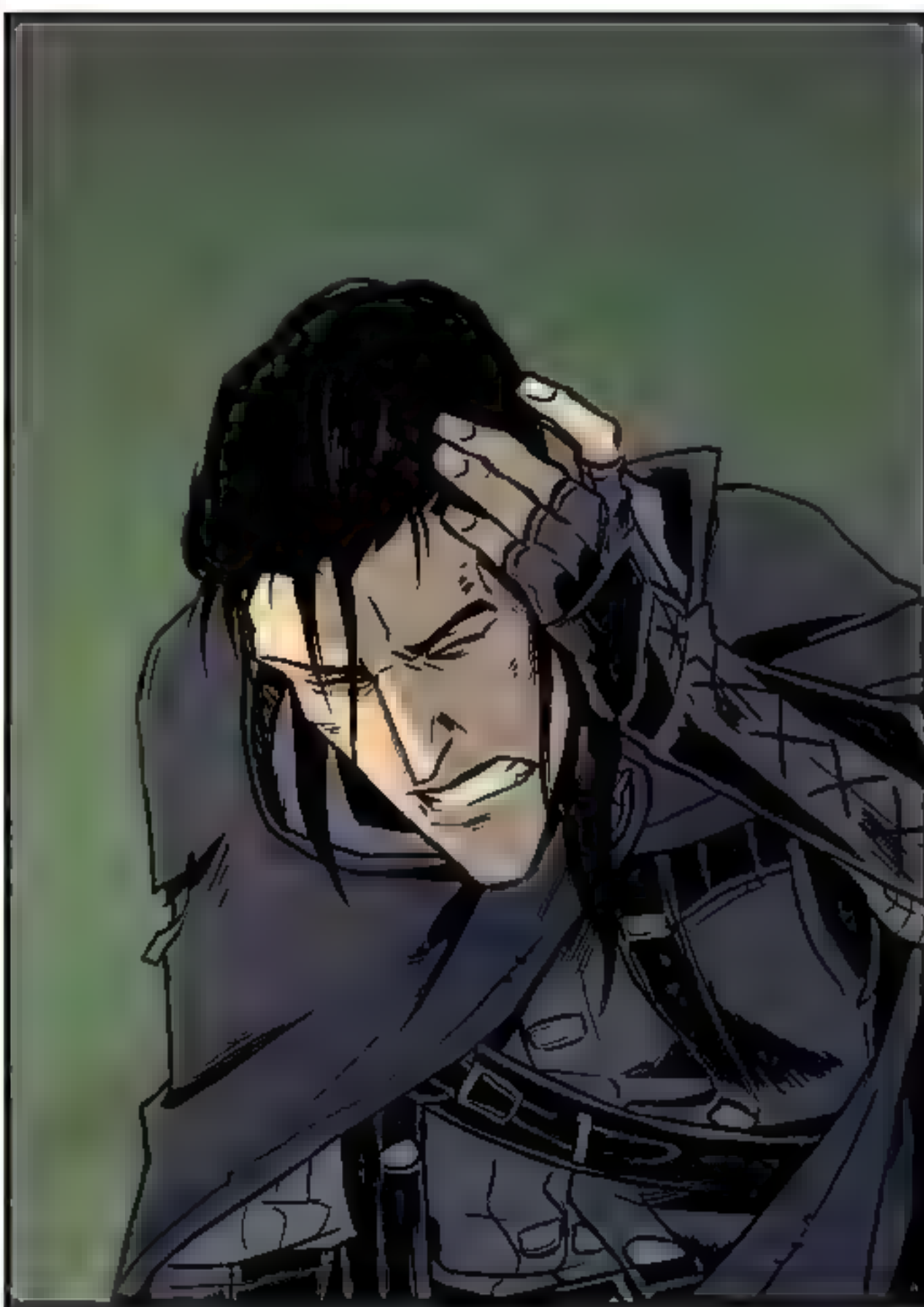
VAX!

LIGHT!

AH-AHHHHH! I
HAVE A WAND
OF DAYLIGHT!



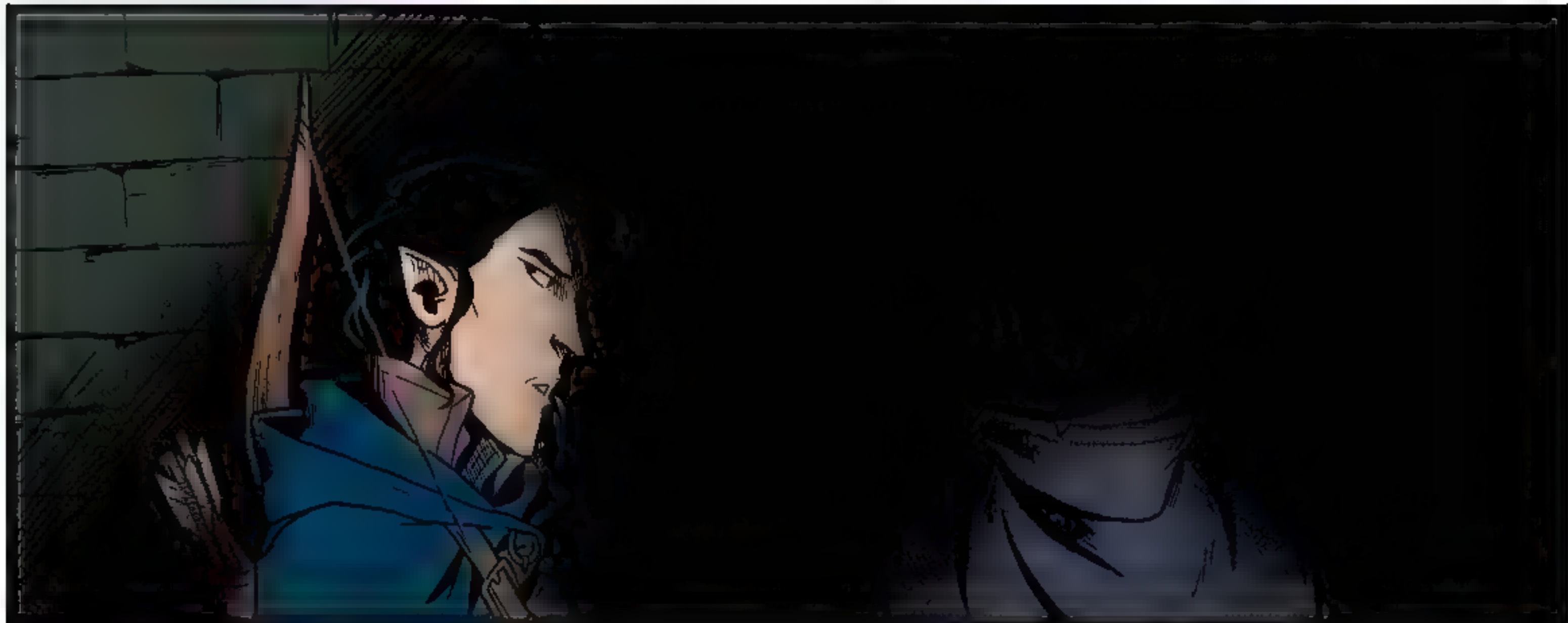














I CAN'T IMAGINE
HOW HUMILIATING
IT IS TO BE BEATEN
BY A BUNCH OF
COCKROACHES.

YOU
SAW
THAT?



OF COURSE, THE
MIRROR WORKS
BOTH WAYS. IT'S
SO ENTERTAIN-
ING, WATCHING
YOU FAIL.



EVERYTHING
IS GOING
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.



YOU'RE SUCH AN
ACCOMPLISHED LIAR, I
FIND MYSELF ALMOST
BELIEVING YOU.



I PROMISED
YOU A FOOTHOLD
IN TAL'DOREI. I WILL
EFFECT THE TRANSFER
OF STILBEN FROM THE
CLASP'S HANDS INTO
OURS, ACCORDING
TO THE TIMETABLE
YOU LAID OUT.

YES!

ALL THAT
ALONE?

IT'S GET-
TING LATE. YOU
WOULDN'T WANT
MORE TIME?
MORE HELP?



YOU'RE TRYING TO
BARGAIN WITH ME. IT
WON'T WORK. I
KNOW THE PRICE OF
YOUR DIPLOMACY.



DON'T BE
AFRAID OF
ETERNITY. I SELDA
WE HAVE MYRIAD
TORTURES AND
TORMENTS TO
STOP YOU
GETTING
BORED.

YES, YES.
YOU WIN EITHER
WAY. BUT SOON
WE'LL HAVE
STILBEN. AND I
ADVANCE IN RANK.
AND THEN WE
ARE EQUALS.

WE WILL
NEVER BE EQUALS.
I WATCHED THOSE
VERMIN NEARLY
OVERWHELM YOU.

I MASTERED
THEM EASILY.
TO PROTECT THE
NETWORK, I HAD
TO GET ZETH
TO SAFETY.

NEXT TIME
SHOULD BE
MORE FUN.



THERE
WON'T BE A
NEXT TIME.

I HAVE
EVERYTHING
I NEED.



YOU WANNA
SEE A SHOW?
WATCH THIS.





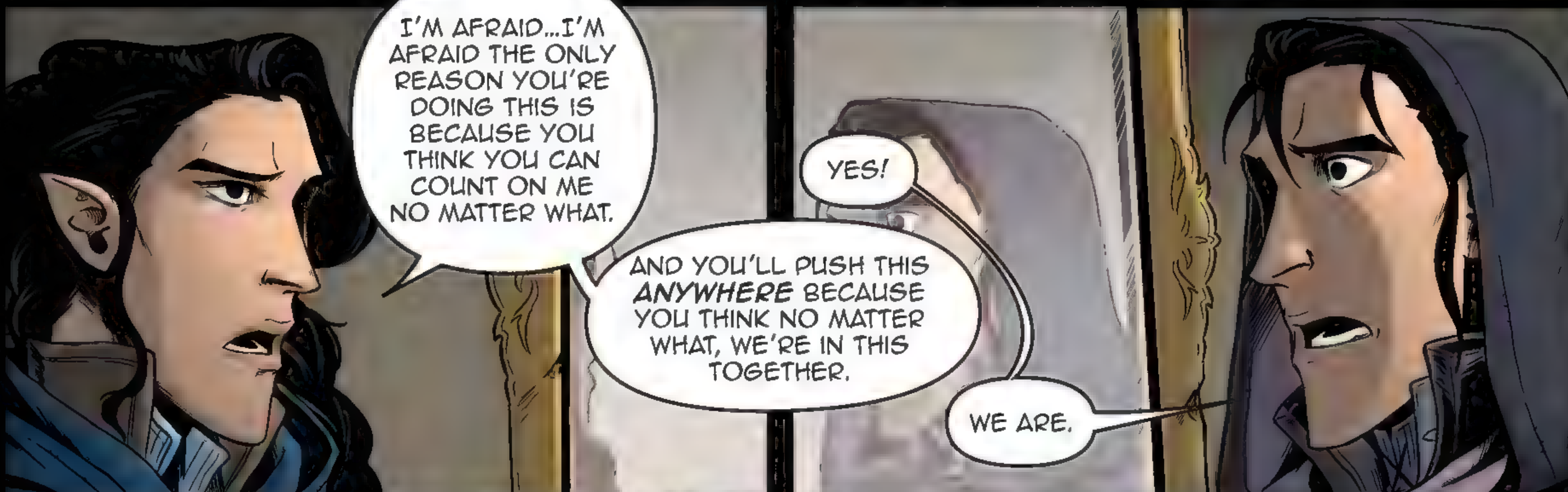
WE JUST
NEED
HELP.

HAH! LIKE WHO?
THOSE IDIOTS WHO
JUST LOST? FACE IT,
BROTHER, ANYONE
FOOLISH ENOUGH
TO HELP US WON'T
STAND A CHANCE
AGAINST...WHOEVER
SHE IS.



WE'RE A TEAM,
WE TOOK A
JOB. WHY ARE
YOU FIGHTING
ME ON THIS?

ALL RIGHT,
I'LL SAY IT.



I'M AFRAID...I'M
AFRAID THE ONLY
REASON YOU'RE
DOING THIS IS
BECAUSE YOU
THINK YOU CAN
COUNT ON ME
NO MATTER WHAT.

YES!

AND YOU'LL PUSH THIS
ANYWHERE BECAUSE
YOU THINK NO MATTER
WHAT, WE'RE IN THIS
TOGETHER.

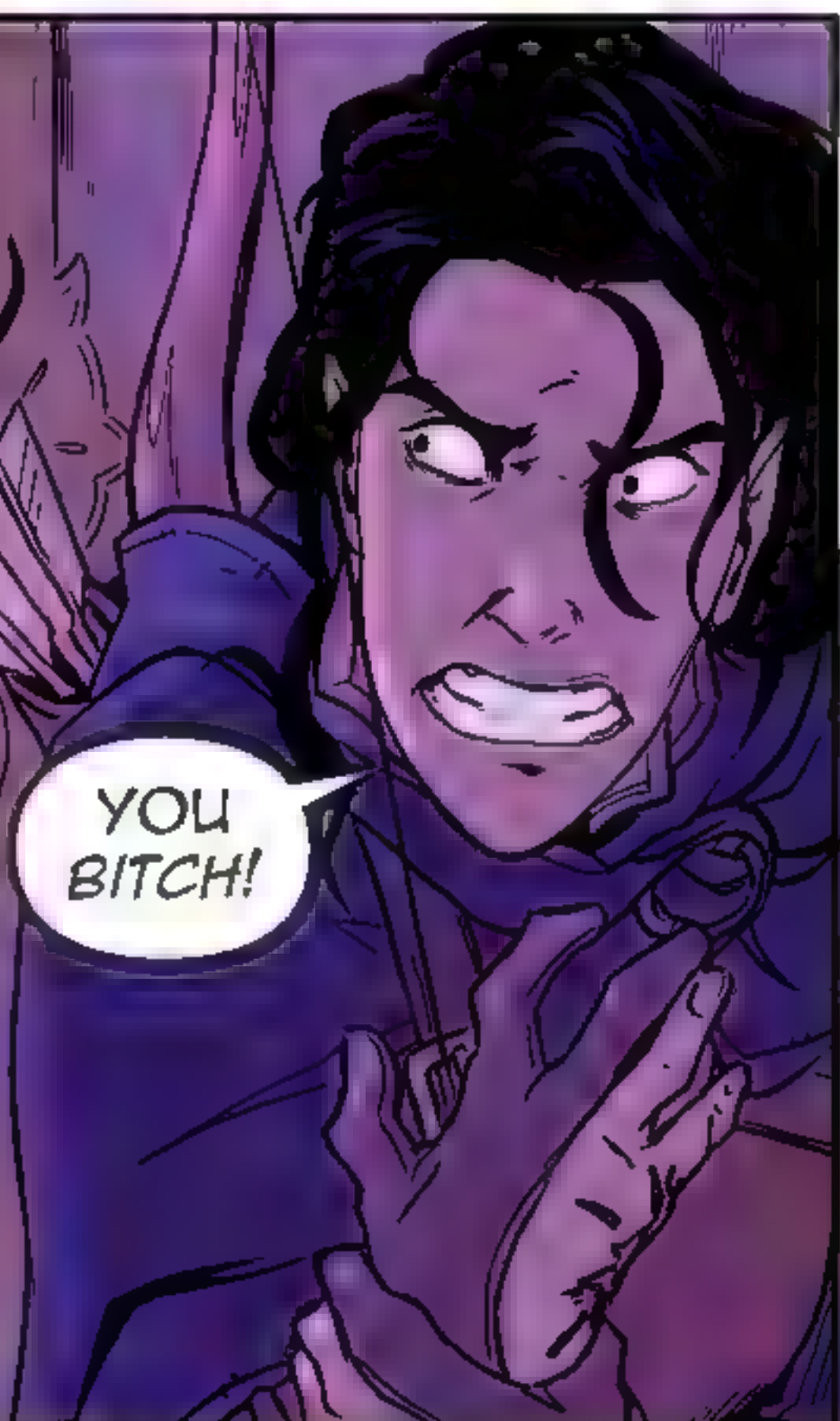
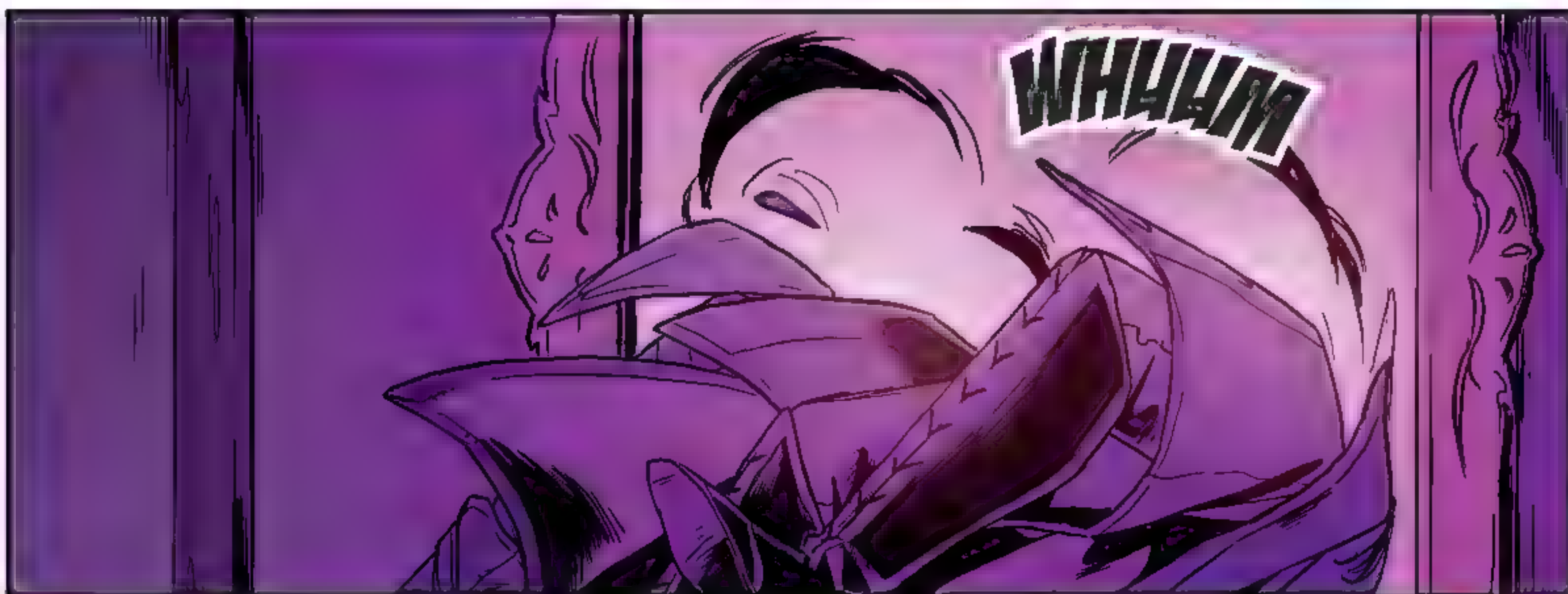
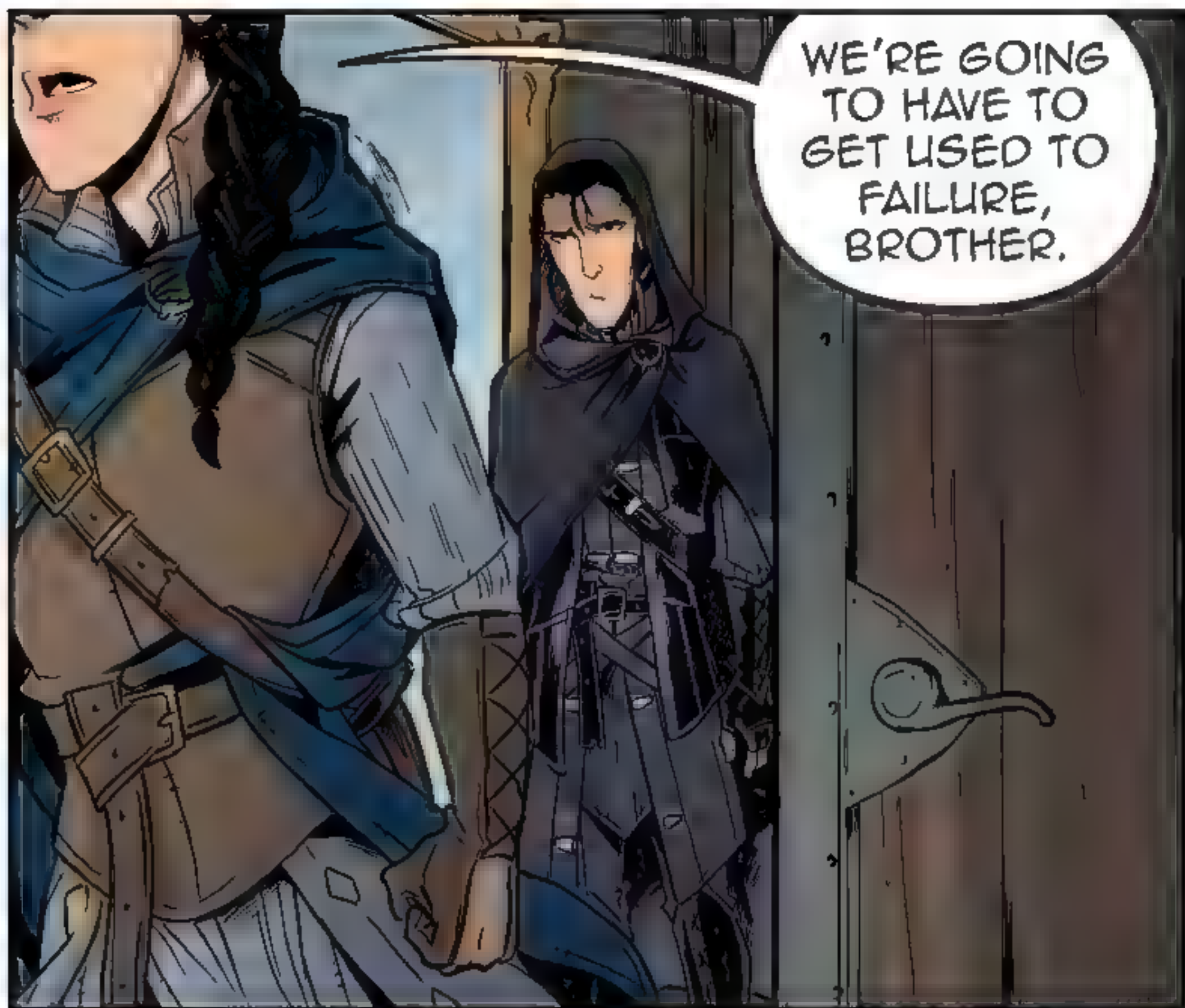
WE ARE.

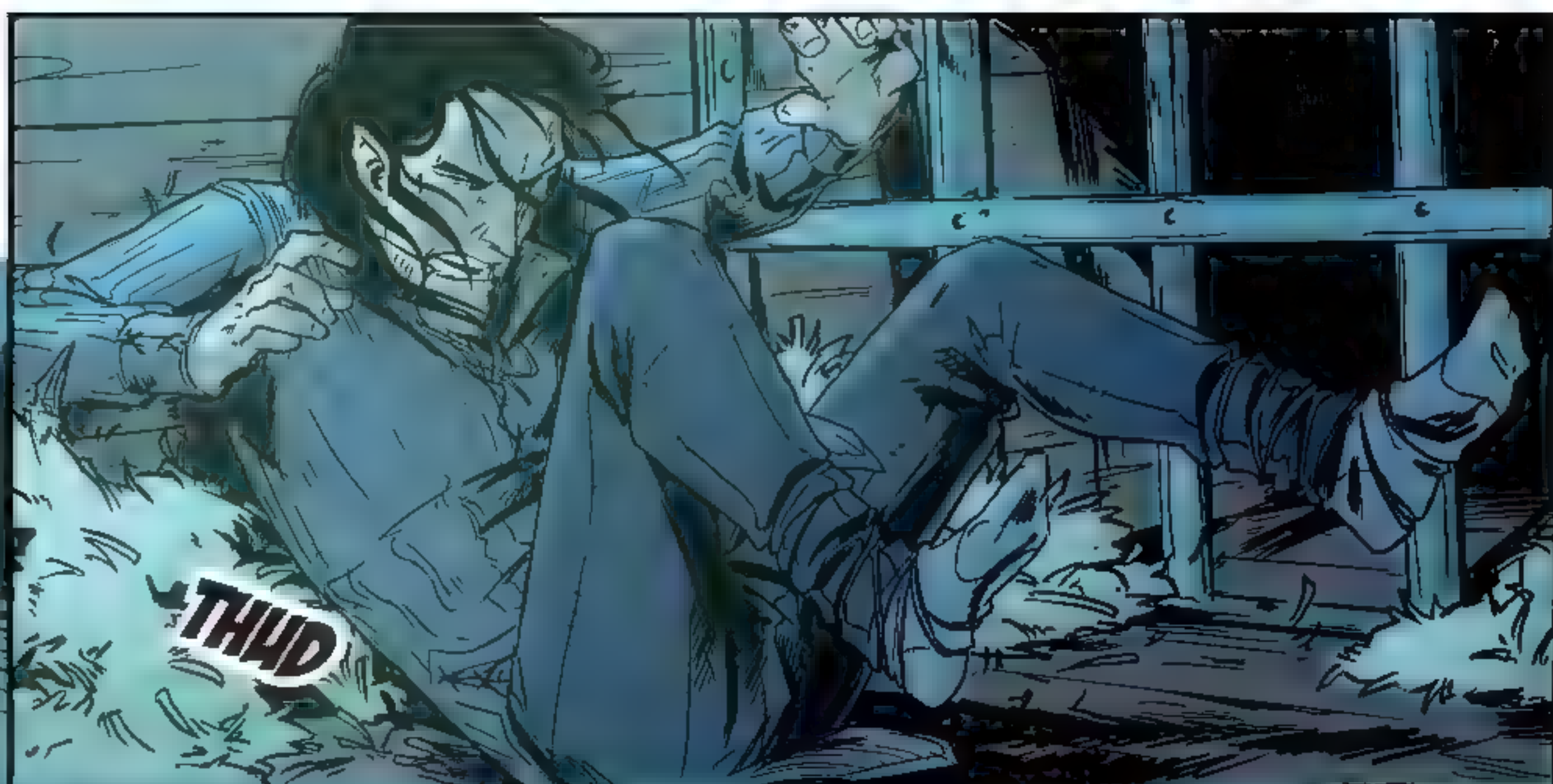
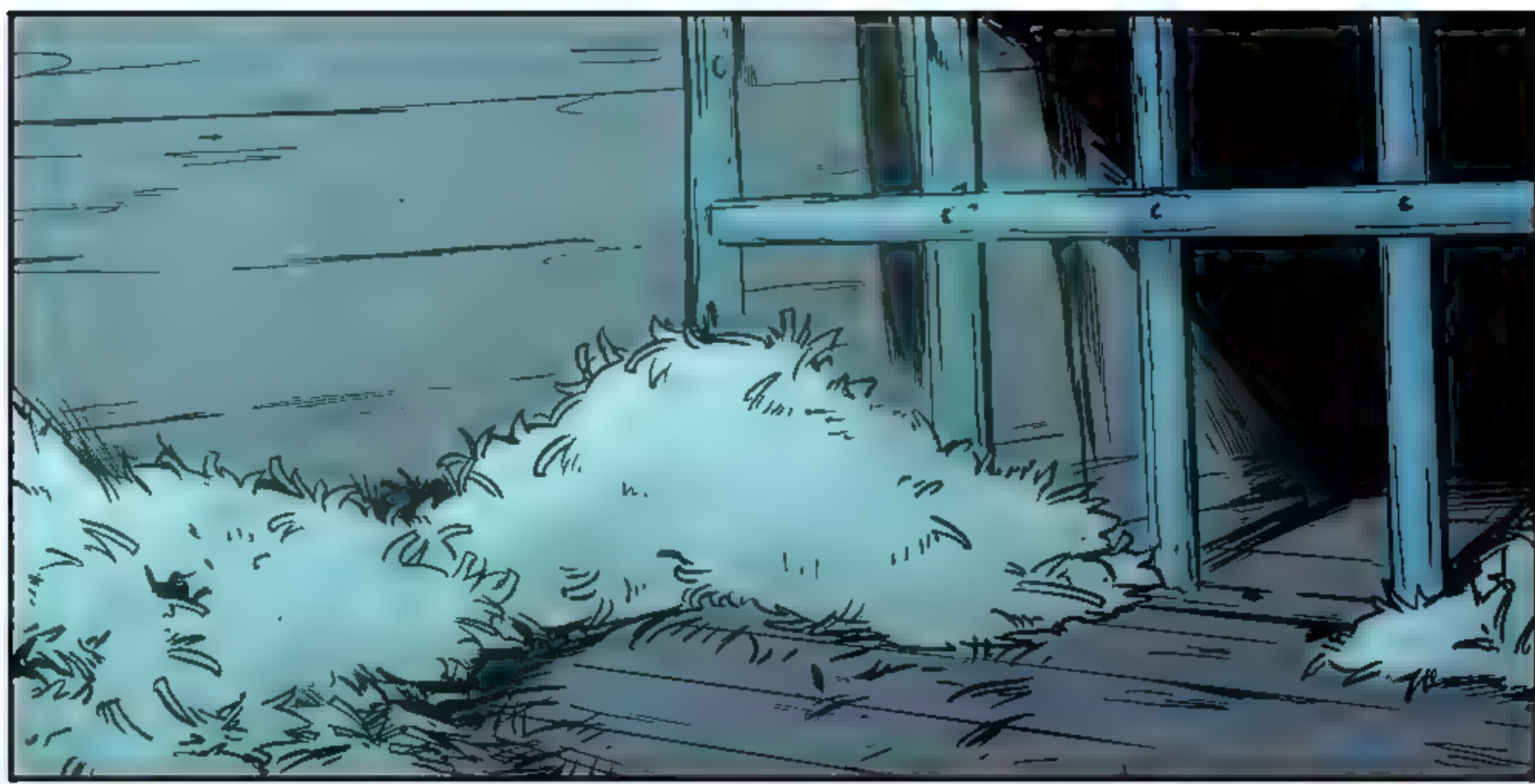


RIGHT. SO
IT'S UP TO ME
TO LEAVE.

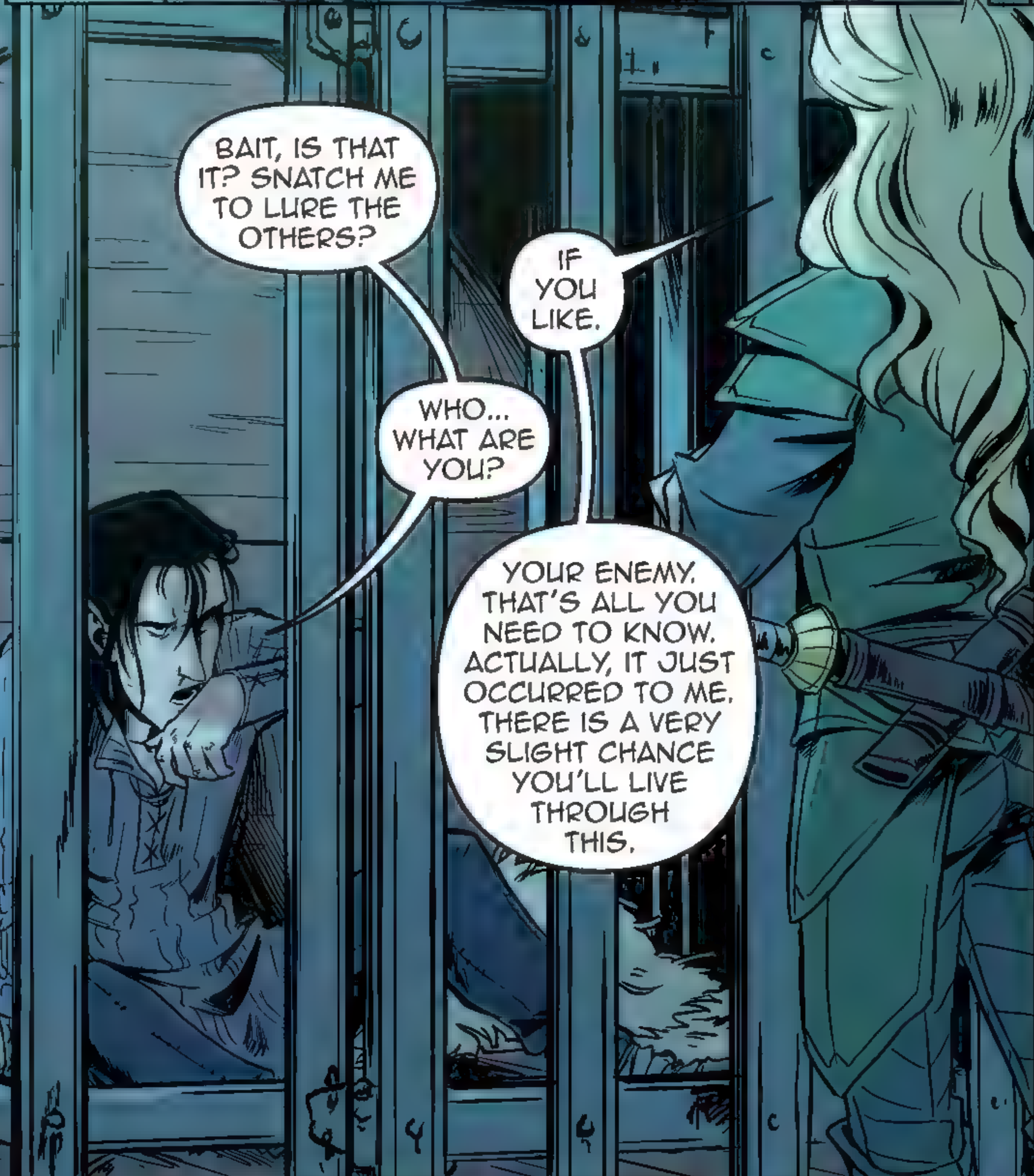
VEX!

I JUST...I
DON'T WANT
TO FAIL.





NO. WELL, NOT THE KIND YOU MEAN. NO, WE'LL JUST LEAVE HIM HERE. SEE WHO TURNS UP.



BAIT, IS THAT IT? SNATCH ME TO LURE THE OTHERS?

IF YOU LIKE.

WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?

YOUR ENEMY. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW. ACTUALLY, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME. THERE IS A VERY SLIGHT CHANCE YOU'LL LIVE THROUGH THIS.



I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME ABOUT YOU.



HAHAHA. BRAVELY SAID. THE CLASP HAVE RESOLUTELY FAILED TO DO ANYTHING TO STOP ME...EXCEPT SEND YOU IDIOTS. AND ALL YOU DID WAS FIND ME.



BUT THAT PUTS YOU HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST OF THE CITY.

THERE MAY BE A PLACE FOR YOU IN OUR NEW ORGANIZATION.



NOT MUCH OF A JOINER, ME.

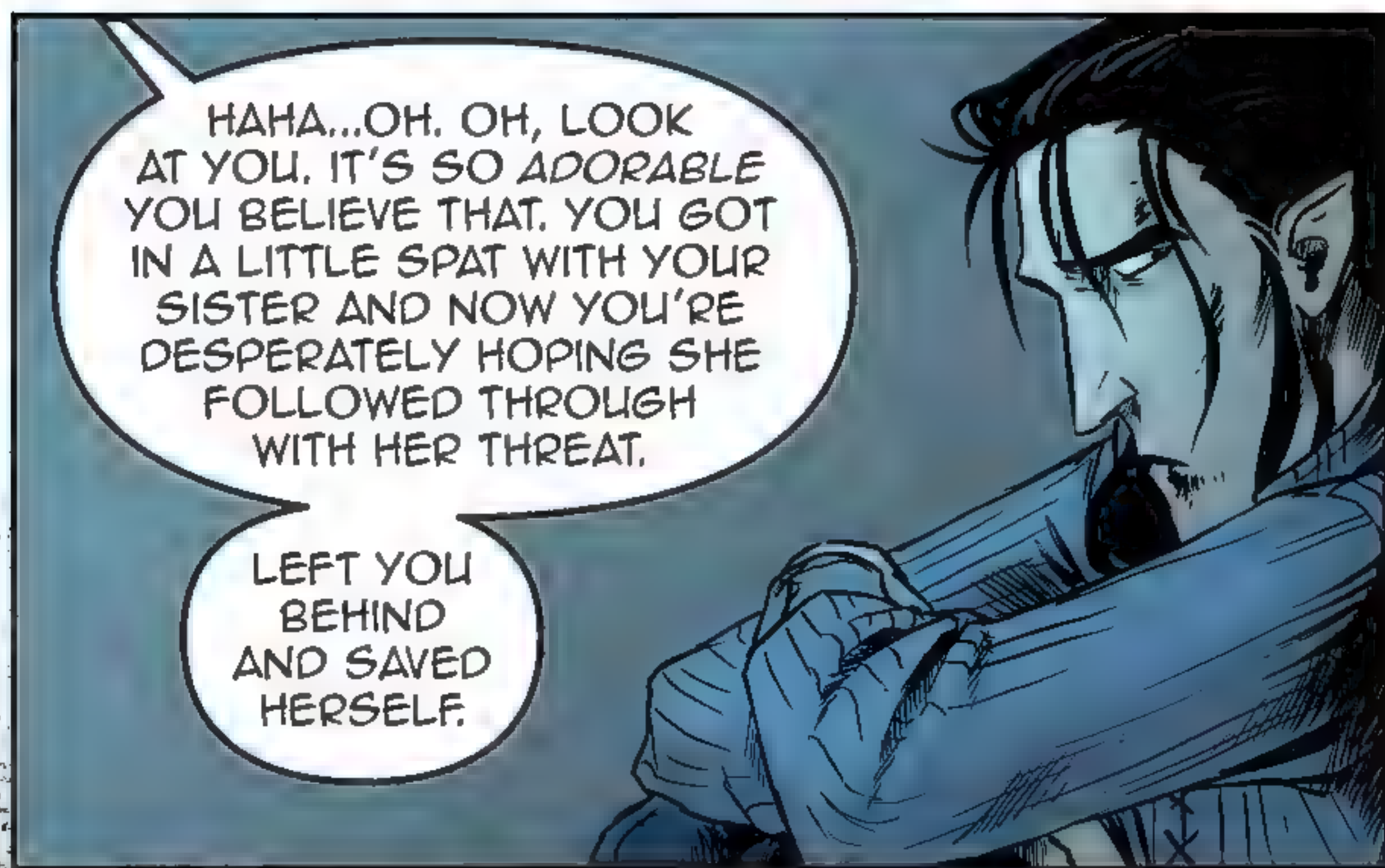


WELL, YOU CAN TALK IT OVER WITH THOSE OTHER INSECTS WHEN THEY ARRIVE.

REGARDLESS. I'LL SETTLE FOR YOUR SISTER.

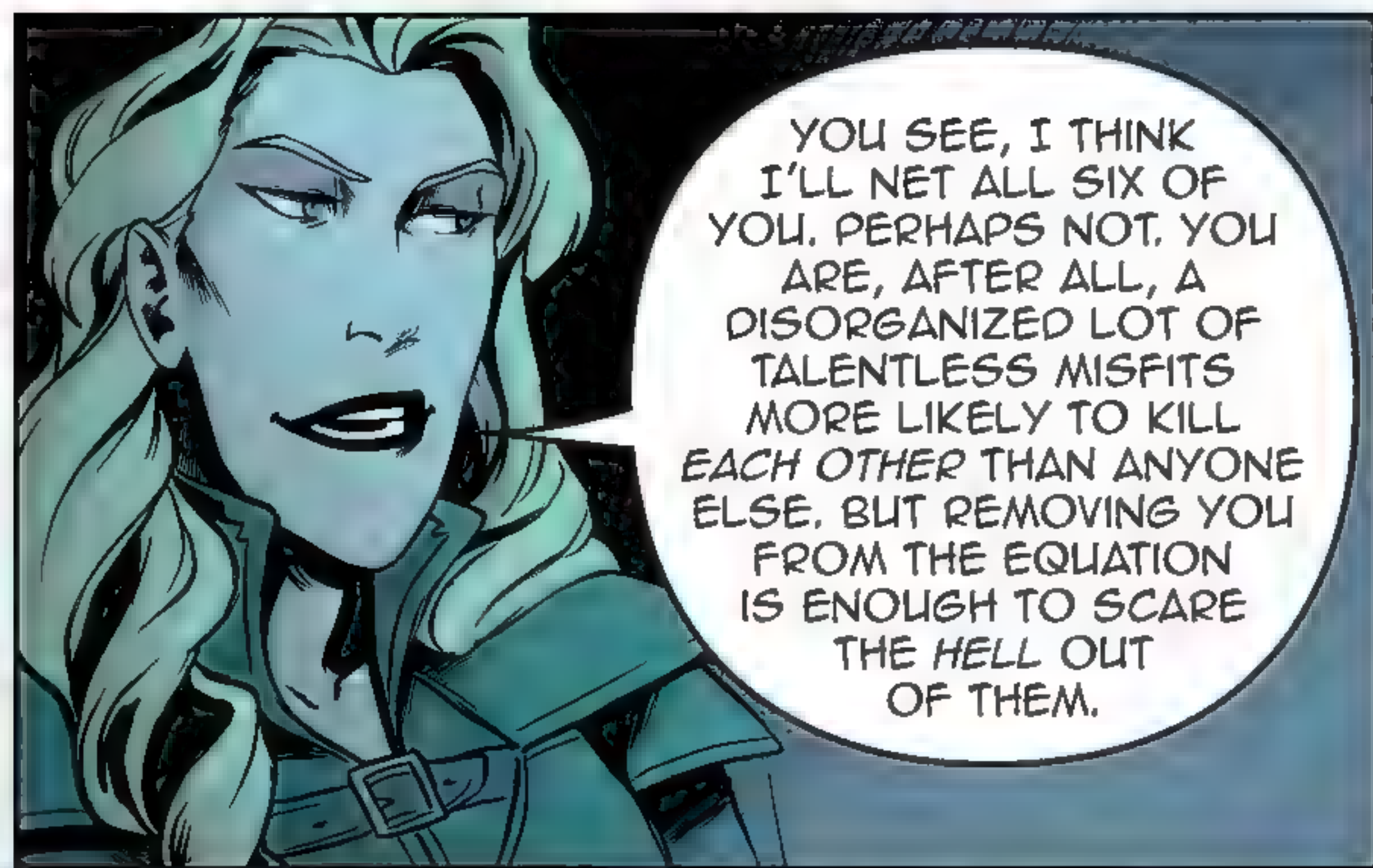
GOOD LUCK. THE ONLY REASON WE DIDN'T KILL EACH OTHER IS THAT YOU INTERRUPTED US.

SHE WON'T TAKE THE BAIT. SHE SAID SHE WAS LEAVING TOWN WITHOUT ME. SHE'S LONG GONE BY NOW.



HAHA...OH. OH, LOOK AT YOU. IT'S SO ADORABLE YOU BELIEVE THAT. YOU GOT IN A LITTLE SPAT WITH YOUR SISTER AND NOW YOU'RE DESPERATELY HOPING SHE FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH HER THREAT.

LEFT YOU BEHIND AND SAVED HERSELF.



YOU SEE, I THINK I'LL NET ALL SIX OF YOU. PERHAPS NOT. YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, A DISORGANIZED LOT OF TALENTLESS MISFITS MORE LIKELY TO KILL EACH OTHER THAN ANYONE ELSE. BUT REMOVING YOU FROM THE EQUATION IS ENOUGH TO SCARE THE HELL OUT OF THEM.



AND, AT THE VERY LEAST, SHE WILL COME FOR YOU. I KNOW THIS.



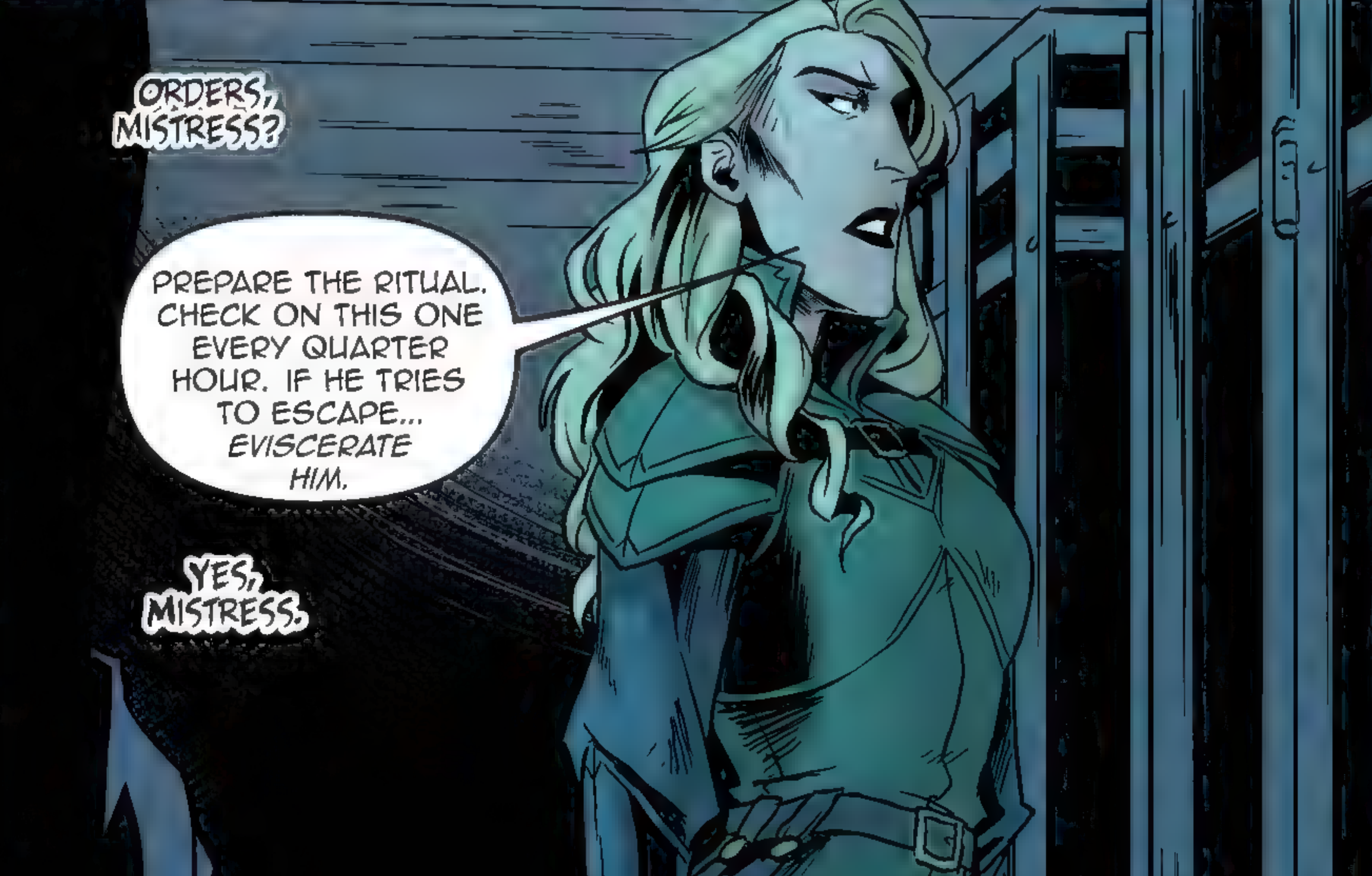
HOW DO YOU... THE MIRRORS. IS THAT IT? IS THAT HOW YOU TRACKED US? IS THAT HOW YOU KNOW?



MMM. THE MIRROR IS A USEFUL TOOL. BUT, NO, I KNOW YOUR SISTER WILL COME HERE, COME FIND YOU, WASTE HERSELF TRYING TO SAVE YOU...BECAUSE I WOULDN'T.



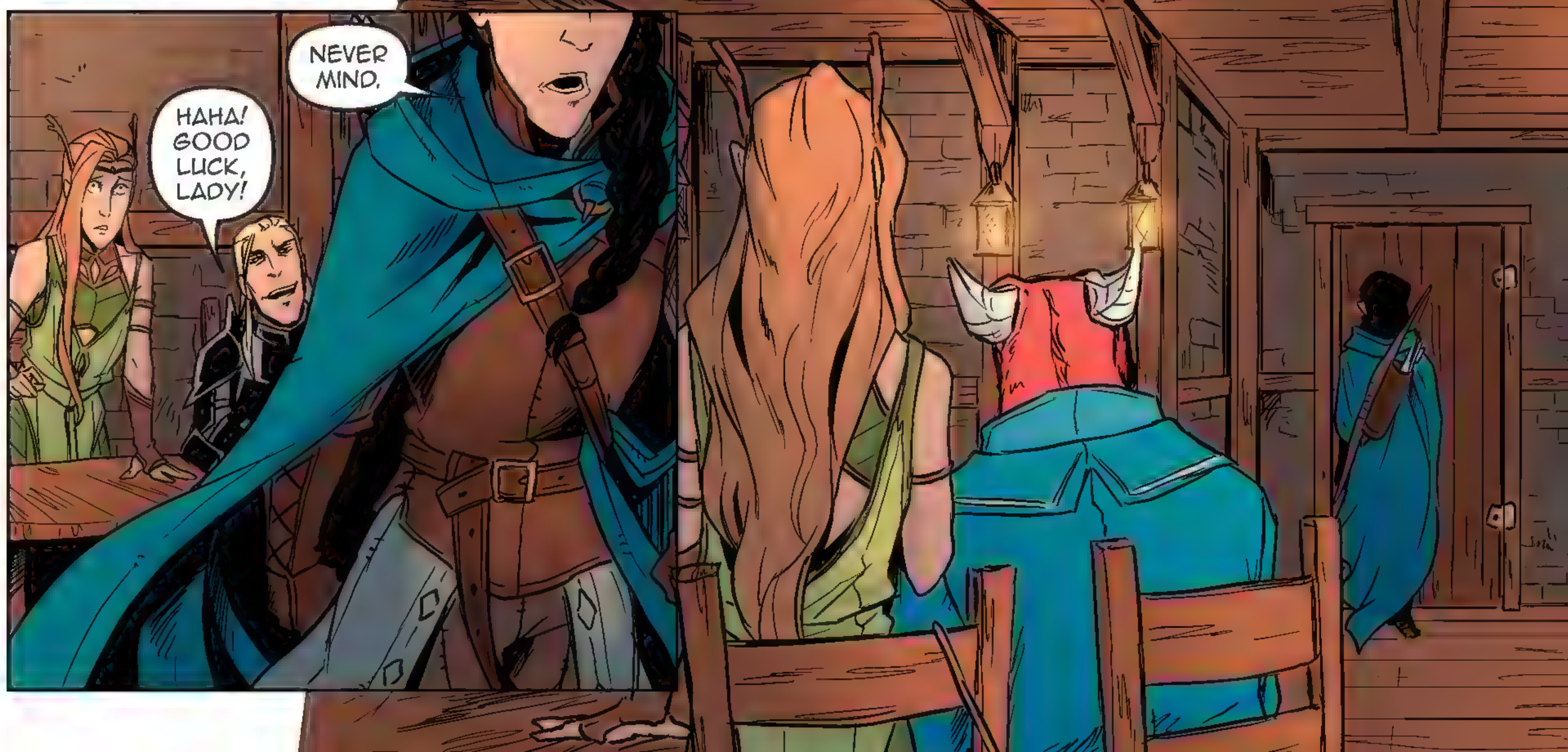
VEX'AHLIA.



ORDERS, MISTRESS?

PREPARE THE RITUAL. CHECK ON THIS ONE EVERY QUARTER HOUR. IF HE TRIES TO ESCAPE... EVISCERATE HIM.

YES, MISTRESS.





OH, THIS SHOULD BE GOOD.

HEY, I KNOW YOU! YOU SHOT ME WITH AN ARROW!



YOUNG LADY. YOU SEEM DESPERATE.

THEY HAVE MY BROTHER.

GOOD! HE'S AN ASSHOLE!

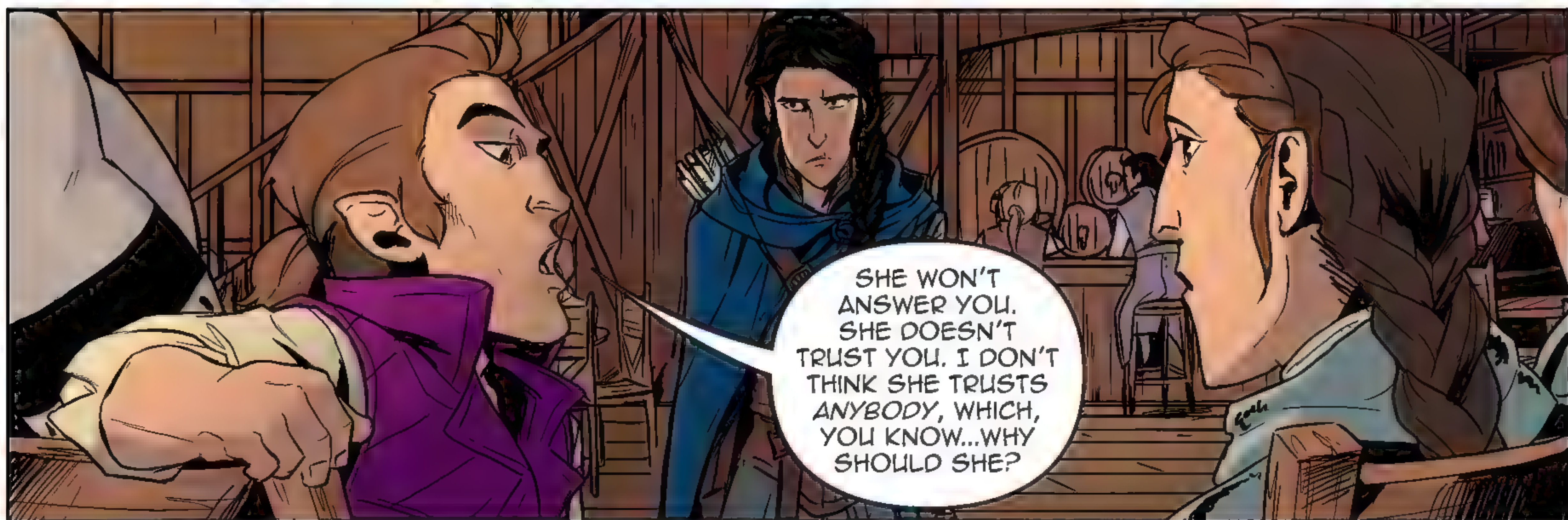


YOU HAVE THE BOOK. YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

LADY, I DON'T WORK FOR YOU. I DON'T LIKE YOU.

BE STILL FOR ONCE, SCANLAN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

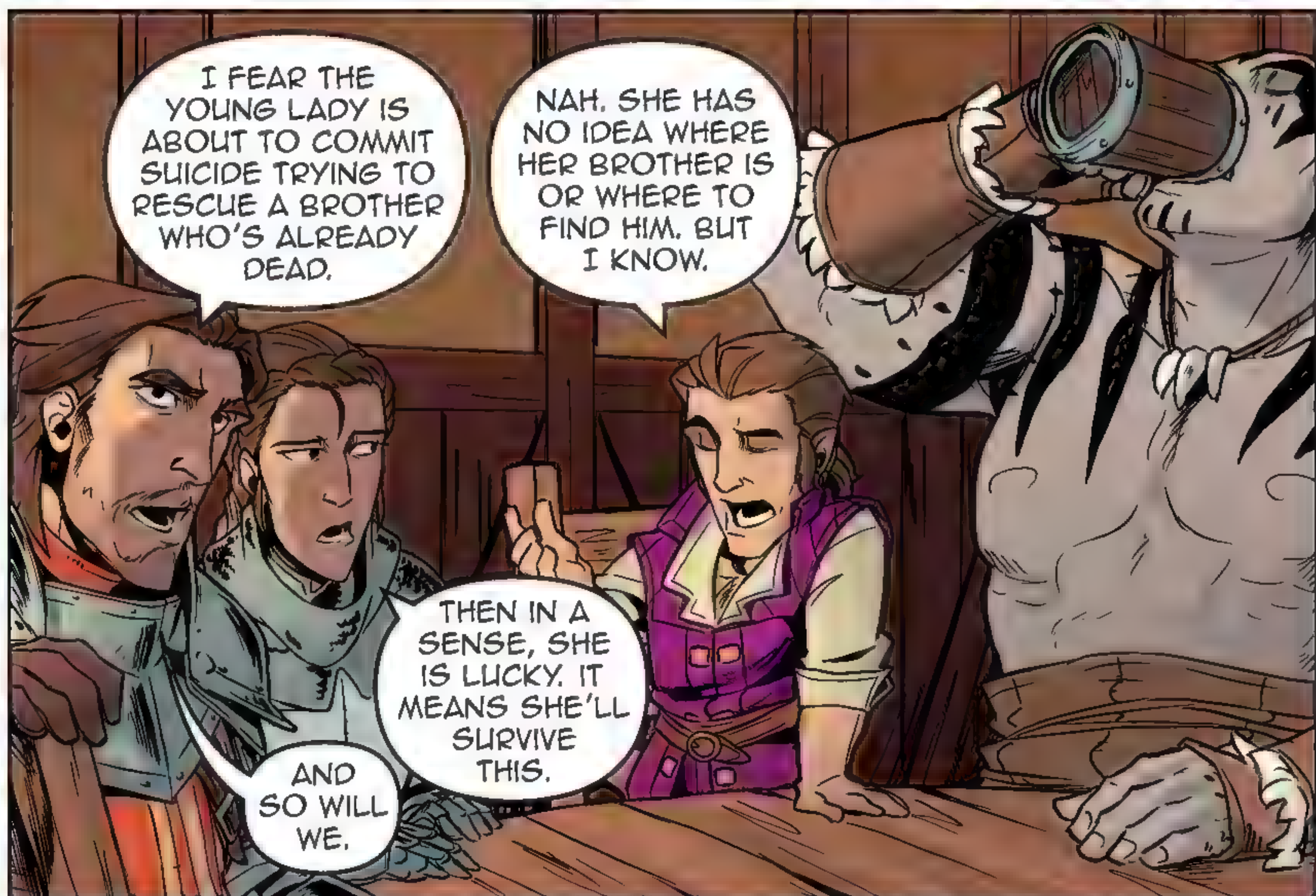


SHE WON'T ANSWER YOU. SHE DOESN'T TRUST YOU. I DON'T THINK SHE TRUSTS ANYBODY, WHICH, YOU KNOW...WHY SHOULD SHE?

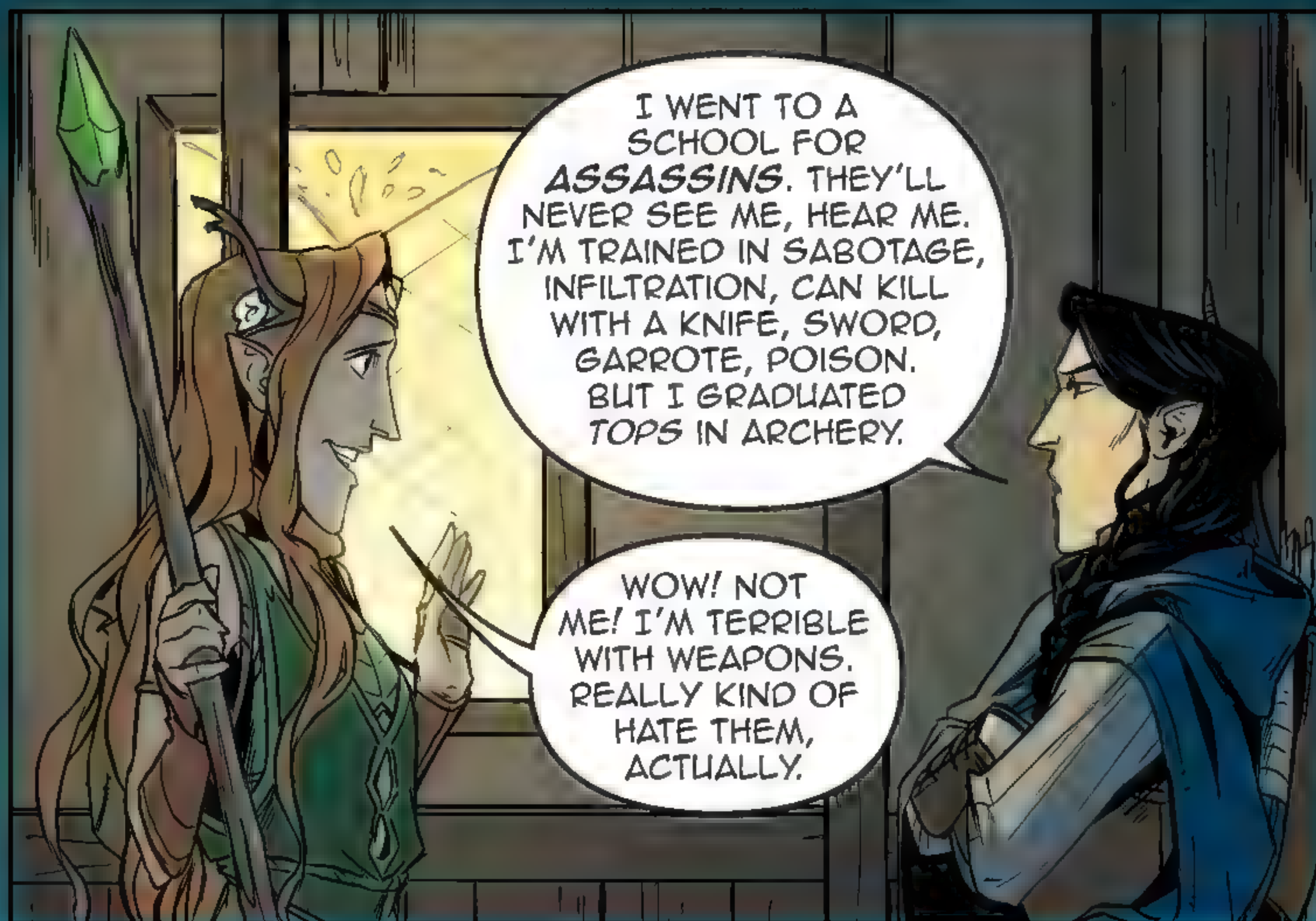


RIGHT NOW SHE'S REALIZING ANYONE WHO MIGHT VOLUNTEER TO HELP WANTS SOMETHING. AND SHE'LL OWE THEM. AND SHE'S PROBABLY BEEN PLANNING ON SPENDING HER ENTIRE LIFE NEVER OWING ANYONE ANYTHING.

'CEPT MAYBE HER BROTHER, WHO'S FUCKED. ONLY REASON SHE'S HERE. HER DESPERATION FINALLY OVERWHELMED HER CYNICISM.





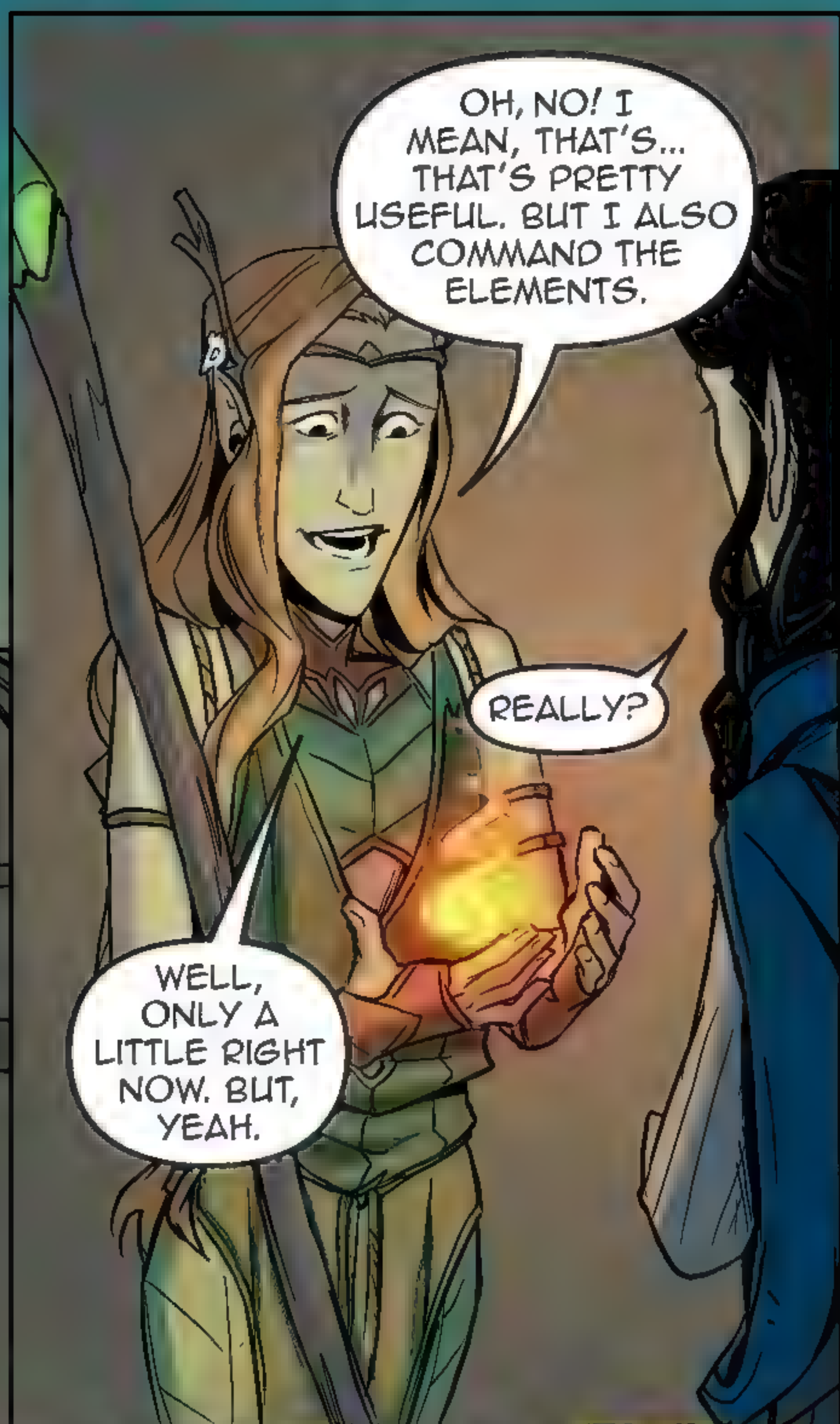


I WENT TO A SCHOOL FOR **ASSASSINS**. THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME, HEAR ME. I'M TRAINED IN SABOTAGE, INFILTRATION, CAN KILL WITH A KNIFE, SWORD, GARROTE, POISON. BUT I GRADUATED TOPS IN ARCHERY.

WOW! NOT ME! I'M TERRIBLE WITH WEAPONS. REALLY KIND OF HATE THEM, ACTUALLY.



THEN WHAT GOOD ARE YOU? JUST SHAPE-CHANGING?



OH, NO! I MEAN, THAT'S... THAT'S PRETTY USEFUL. BUT I ALSO COMMAND THE ELEMENTS.

REALLY?

WELL, ONLY A LITTLE RIGHT NOW. BUT, YEAH.



OKAY, WELL... THAT SEEMS USEFUL. TRY AND KEEP UP.

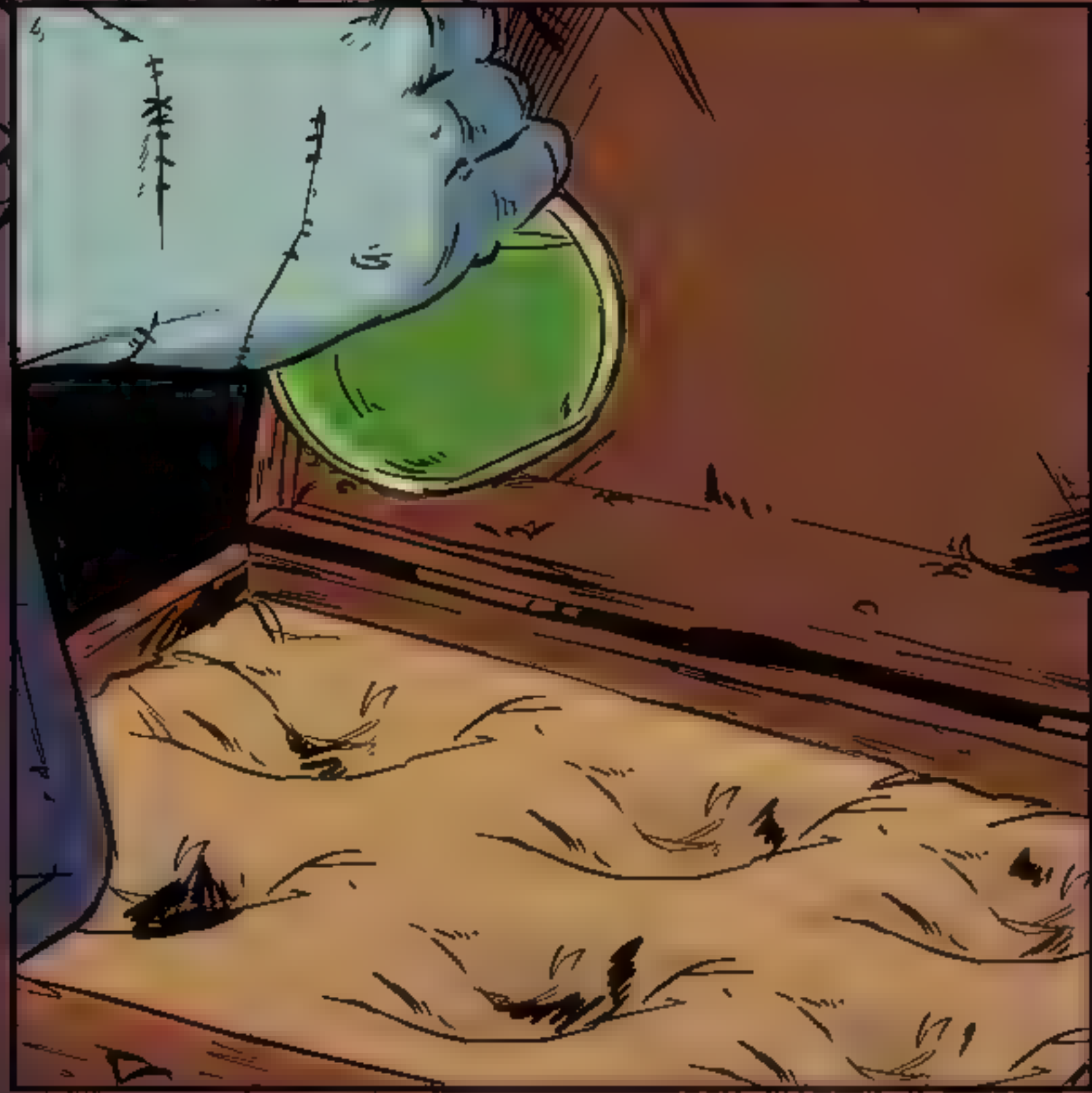


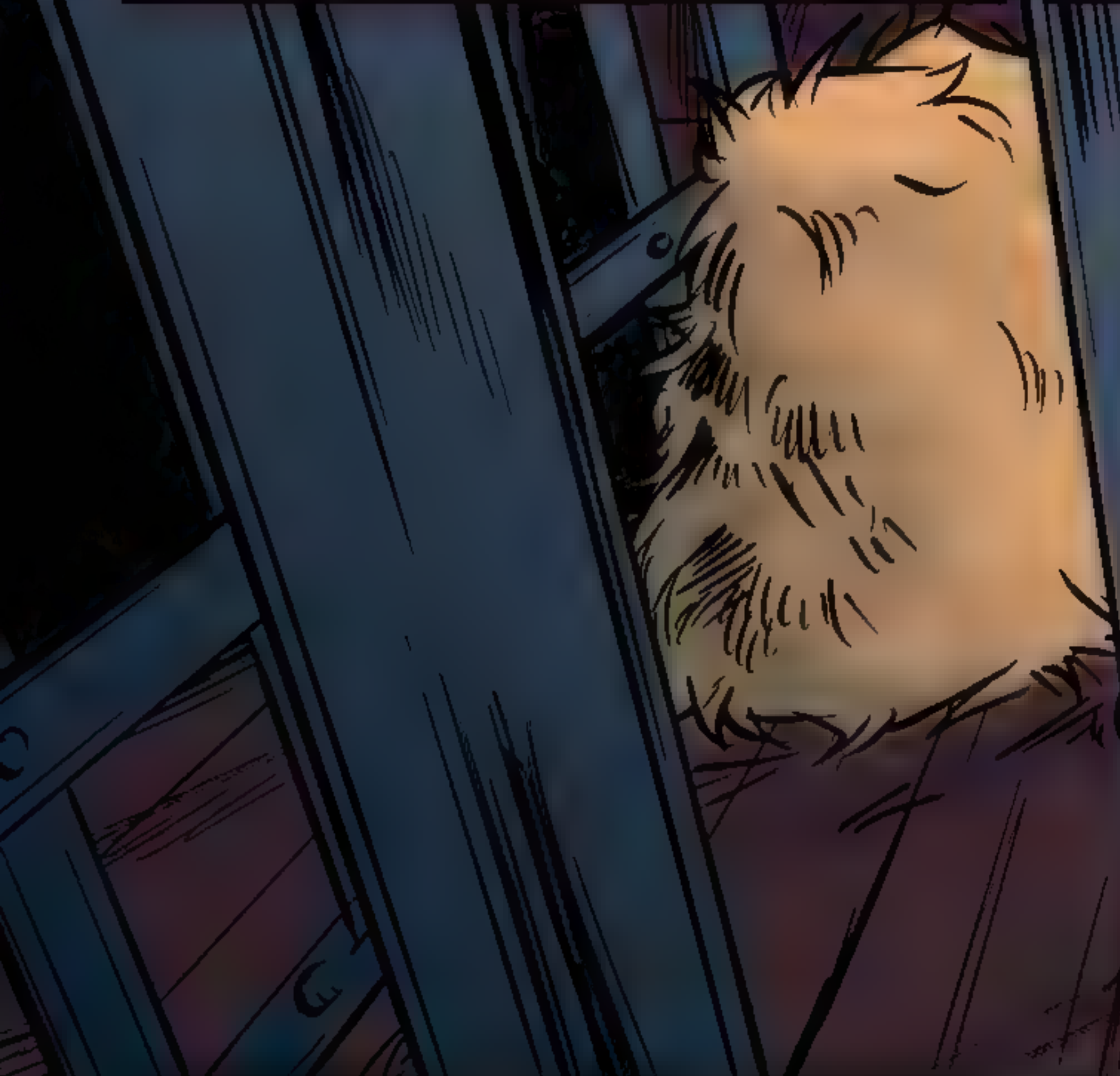
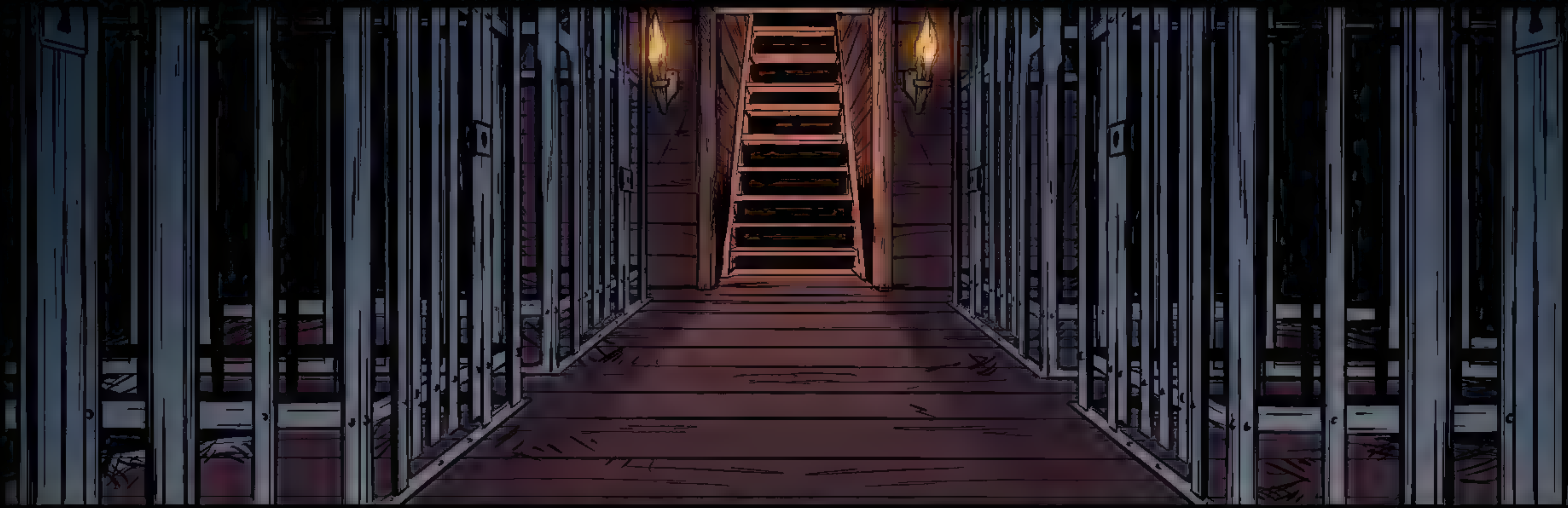
WAIT 'TIL I FIGURE OUT WINGS! THEN YOU'LL BE THE ONE KEEPING UP!

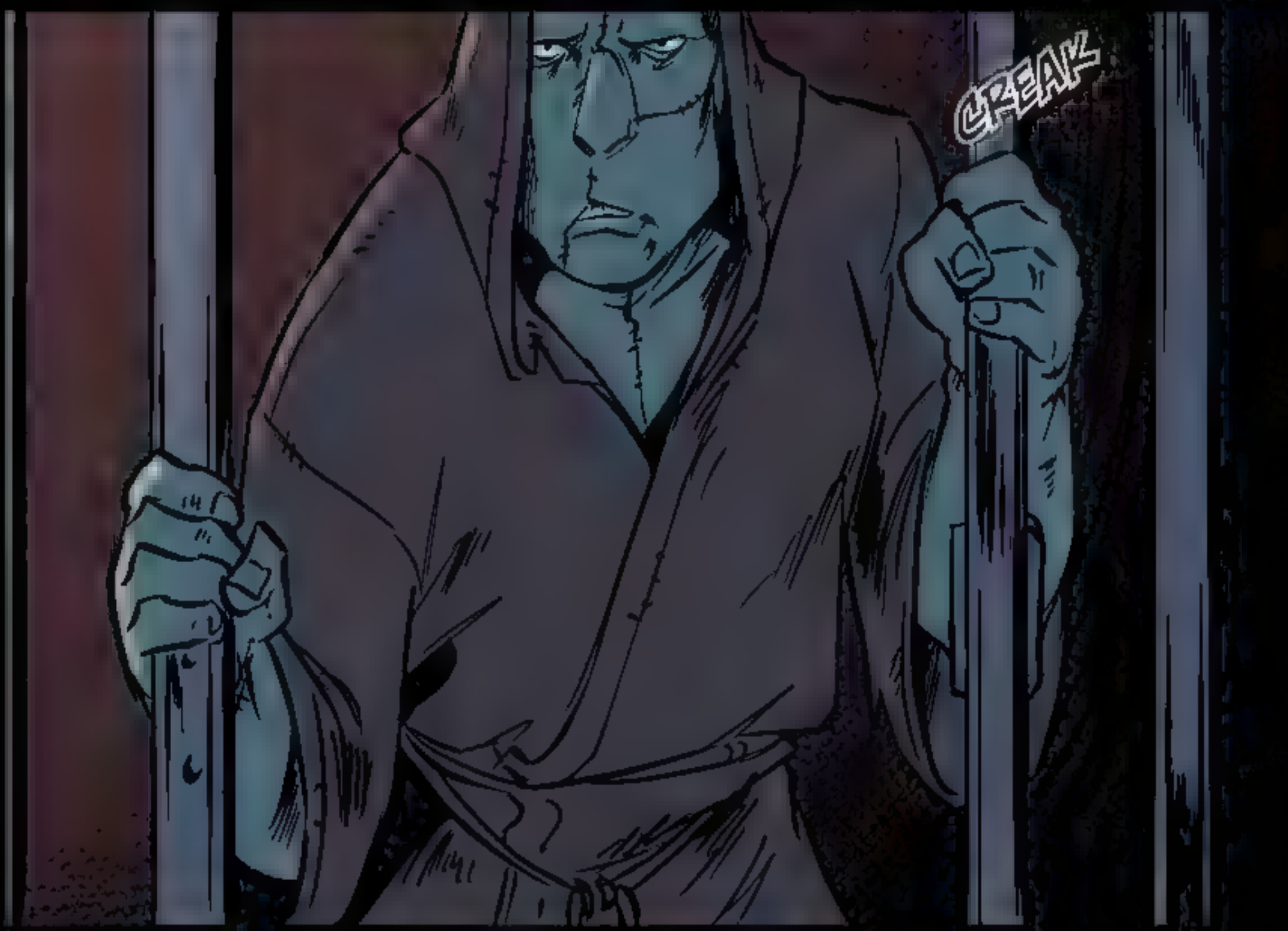


HEY! WHERE ARE WE GOING?

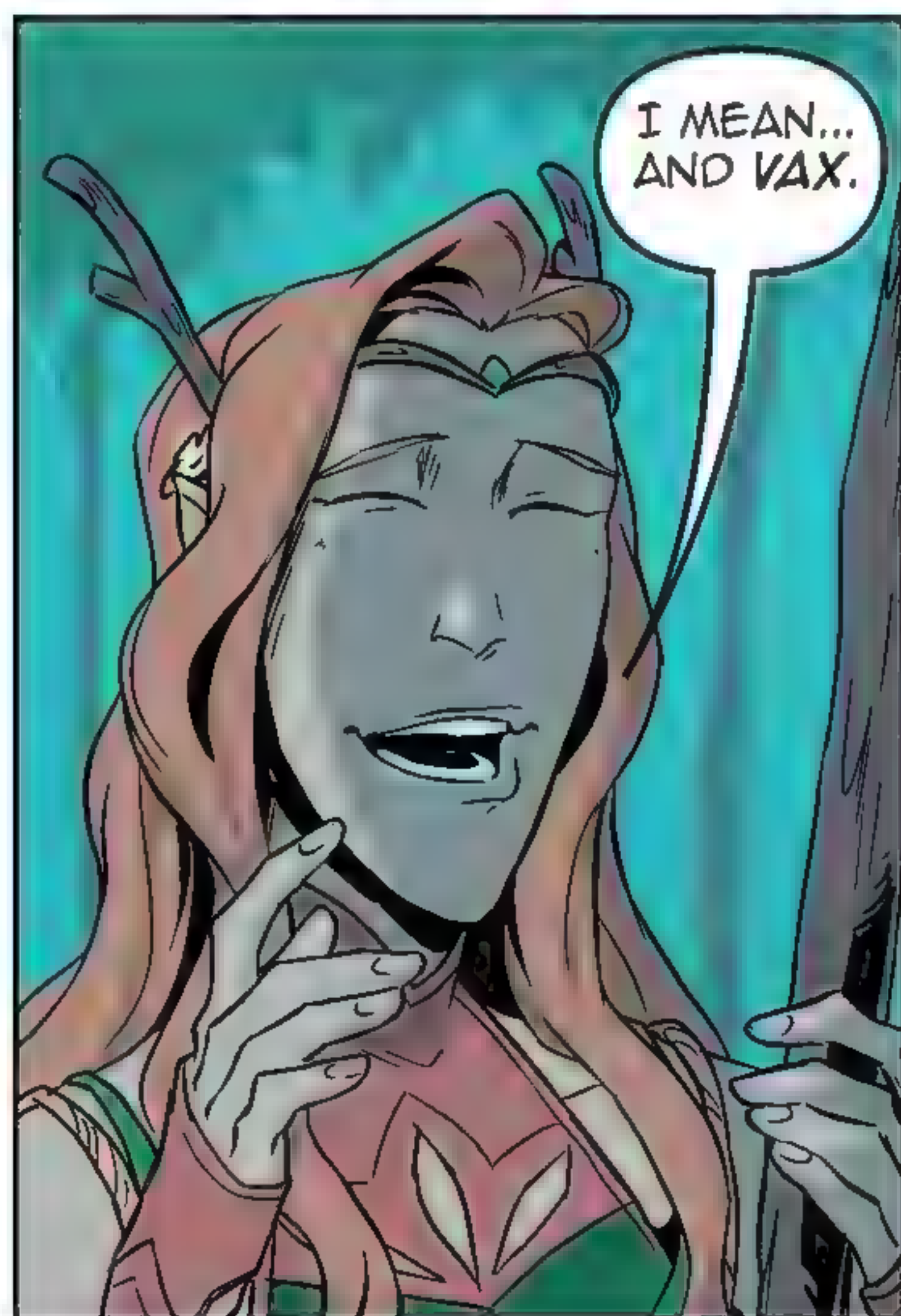
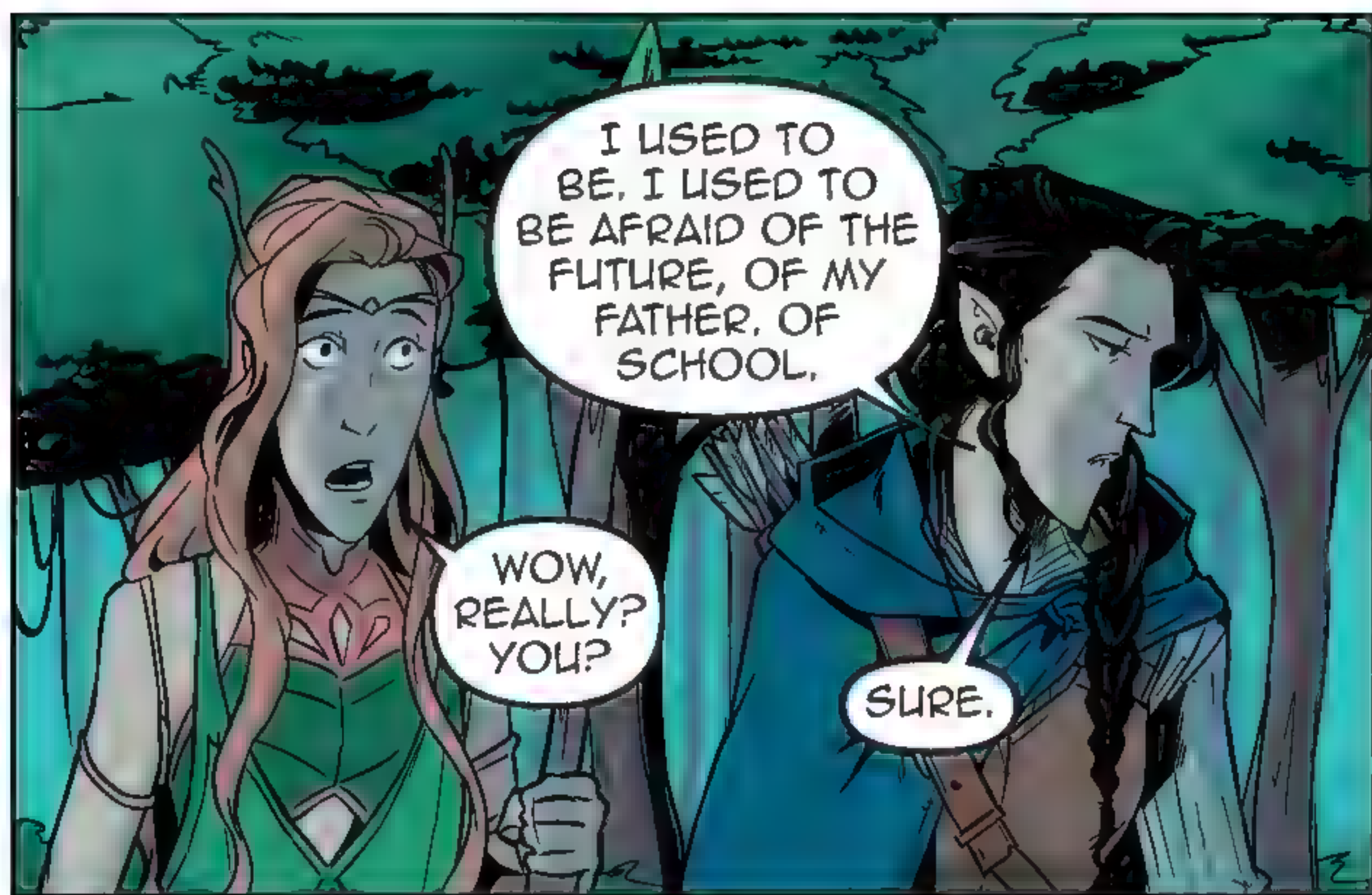
I HAVE TO RETRIEVE SOMETHING MY BROTHER CONVINCED ME TO LEAVE OUTSIDE OF TOWN. A TRINKET.













IT WAS AT SCHOOL.
THE SCHOOL. SECRET
ASSASSIN SCHOOL FOR
THE CHILDREN OF ELF
NOBLES. I MEAN, IT WASN'T
EASY FOR ANYONE,
BUT VAX AND I WERE
SUPPOSED
TO FAIL.

FAIL?
WHY?

TO PROVE OUR
FATHER RIGHT. WE
WERE HAPPY LIVING WITH
OUR MOTHER. BUT SHE WAS
A HUMAN. FATHER WAS...
NO CHILD OF HIS, EVEN
A HALF-BREED OTHLIR,
WAS GOING TO BE
RAISED LIKE
A PEASANT.



IT SOUNDS
LIKE HE WAS
PROUD OF
YOU.

HAH! THE
OPPOSITE. OR...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHAT YOU CALL IT.
HE WASN'T ASHAMED
OF US. HE JUST
WANTED TO
SAVE FACE.



HE TOOK US
AWAY FROM OUR
MOTHER BECAUSE
WE'RE ELVES. THEN HE
PUT US IN AN ELF SCHOOL
BECAUSE WE WERE NOBLE-
BORN. AND OF COURSE
EVERYONE THERE TREATED
US LIKE WE WERE COCK-
ROACHES. AFTER MONTHS
OF TRYING TO BE STRONG,
LIKE WE ASSUMED
FATHER WANTED,
WE COMPLAINED
TO HIM AND HE
LAUGHED.



LAUGHED?

HE PLACED A
WAGER WITH HIS
HIGH-BORN FRIENDS
ON HOW LONG WE'D
LAST. HE LAUGHED AT
THE IDEA THAT WE
COULD ENDURE THE
SCHOOL. HE'D BET
AGAINST US.

THAT'S
AWFUL.



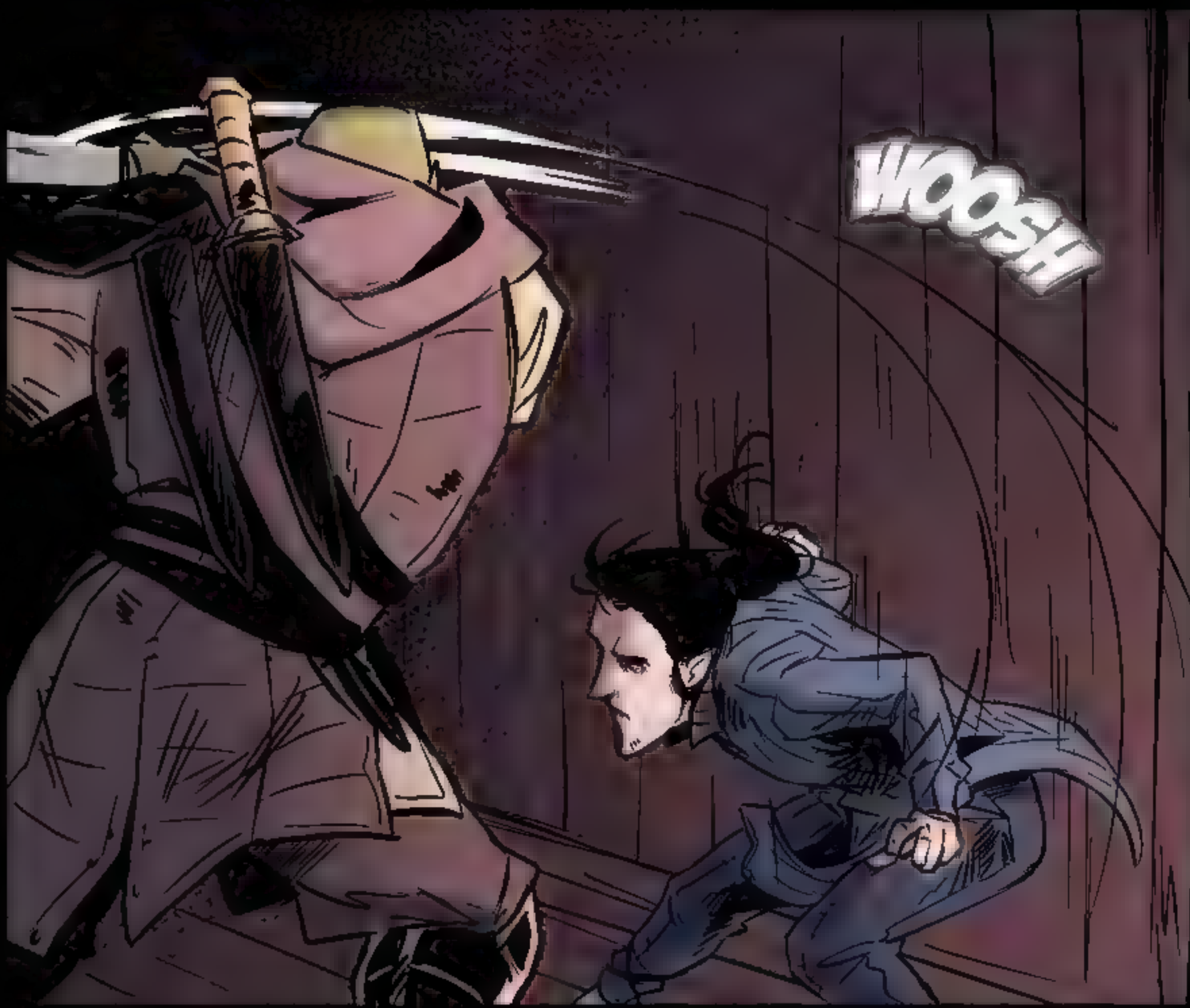
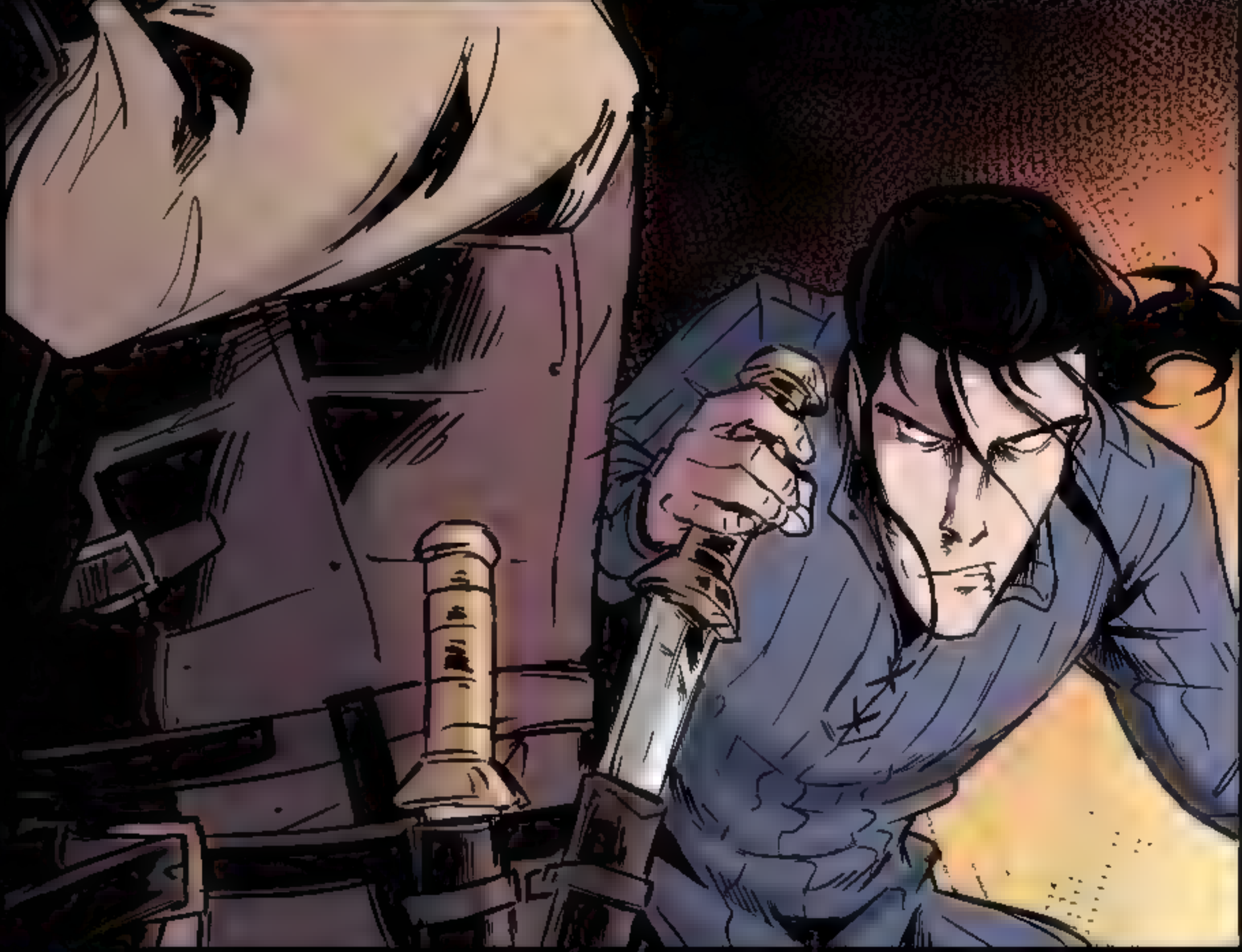
I DON'T THINK...
WE KNEW HE COULD
BE CRUEL, WE KNEW
HE WAS CALLOUS AND
NEGLECTFUL, BUT THAT
WAS THE MOMENT WHEN
WE REALIZED HE WAS **NOT**
ON OUR SIDE. EVER SINCE
THEN, IT'S BEEN ME AND
VAX AGAINST THE
WORLD. SO FAR...
THE WORLD'S
WINNING.

AT LEAST
YOU **HAVE** VAX.
HE SEEMS
NICE.

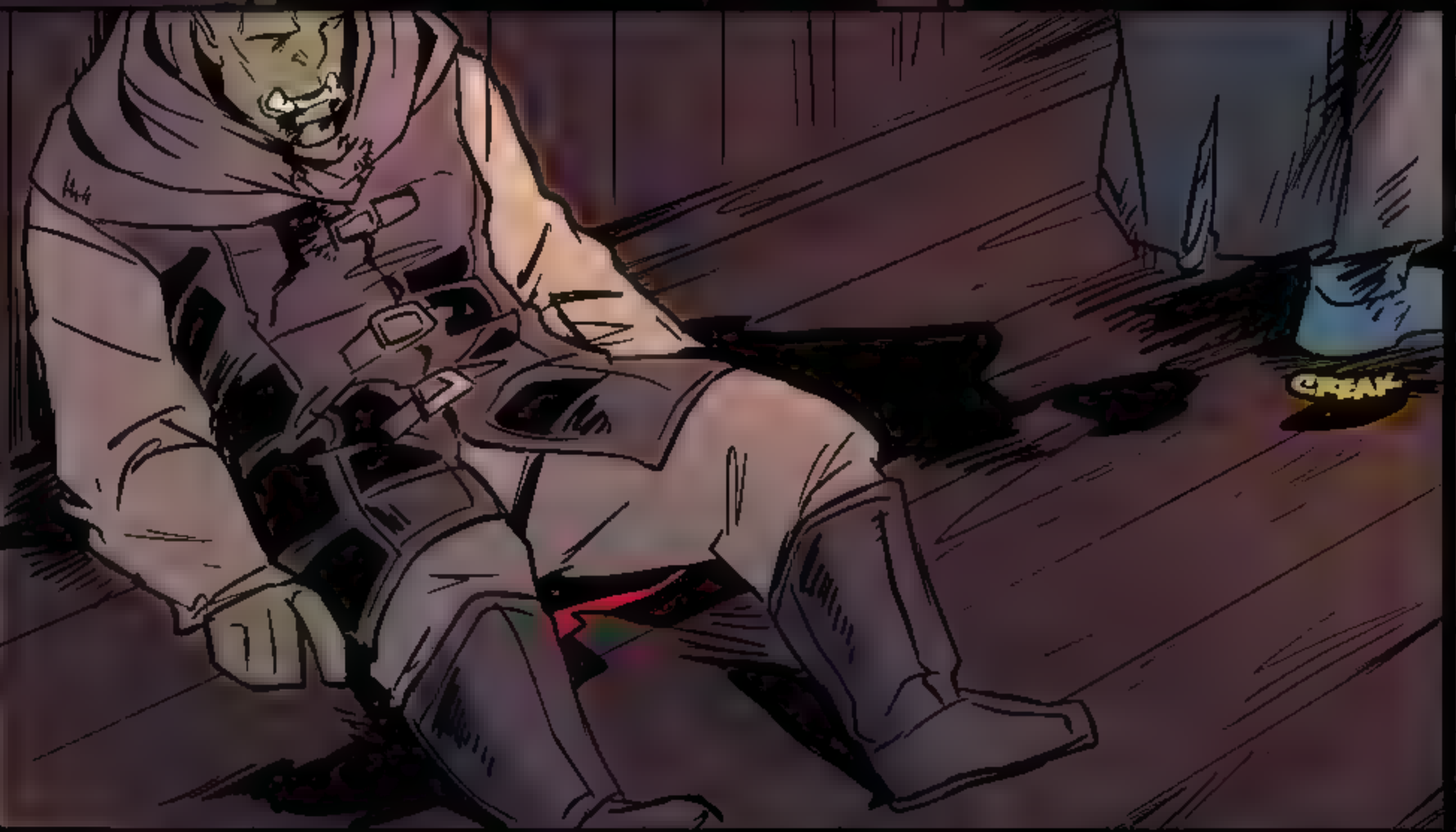
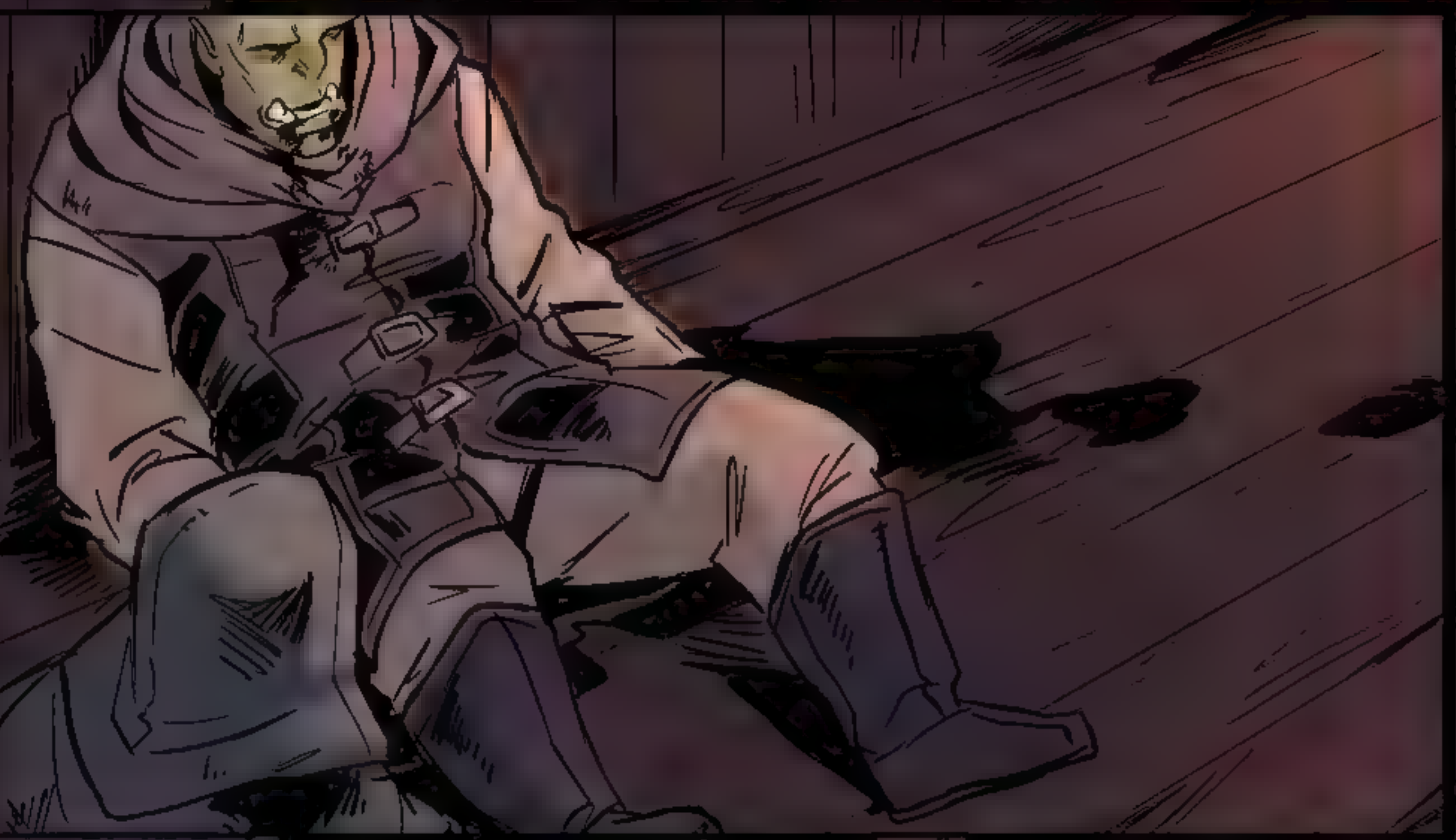


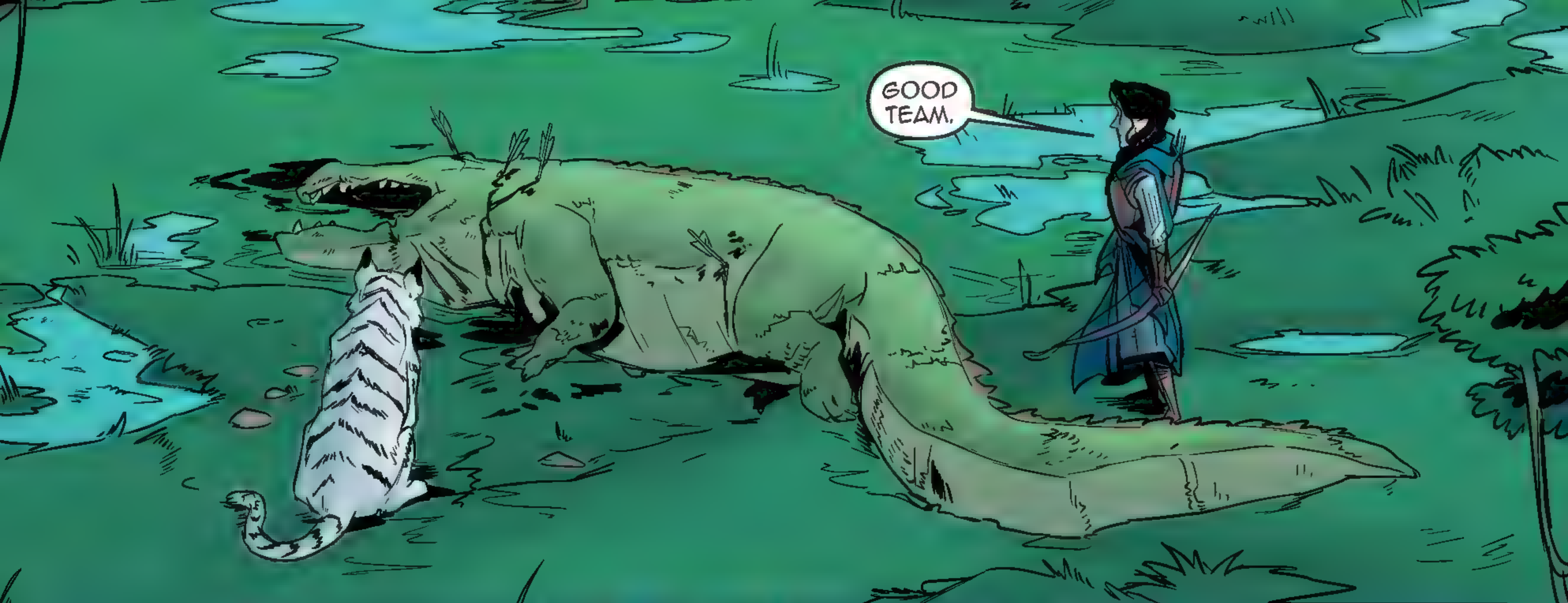
TRUST ME
WHEN I SAY
THIS, HE IS
NOT THE
NICE ONE.











GOOD TEAM.



AND YOU DIDN'T GET EATEN! 'CAUSE YOU LISTENED, UNLIKE SOME BROTHERS I KNOW.



YEAH!

FWOOSH!



COME ON, VAX IS STILL IN DANGER.



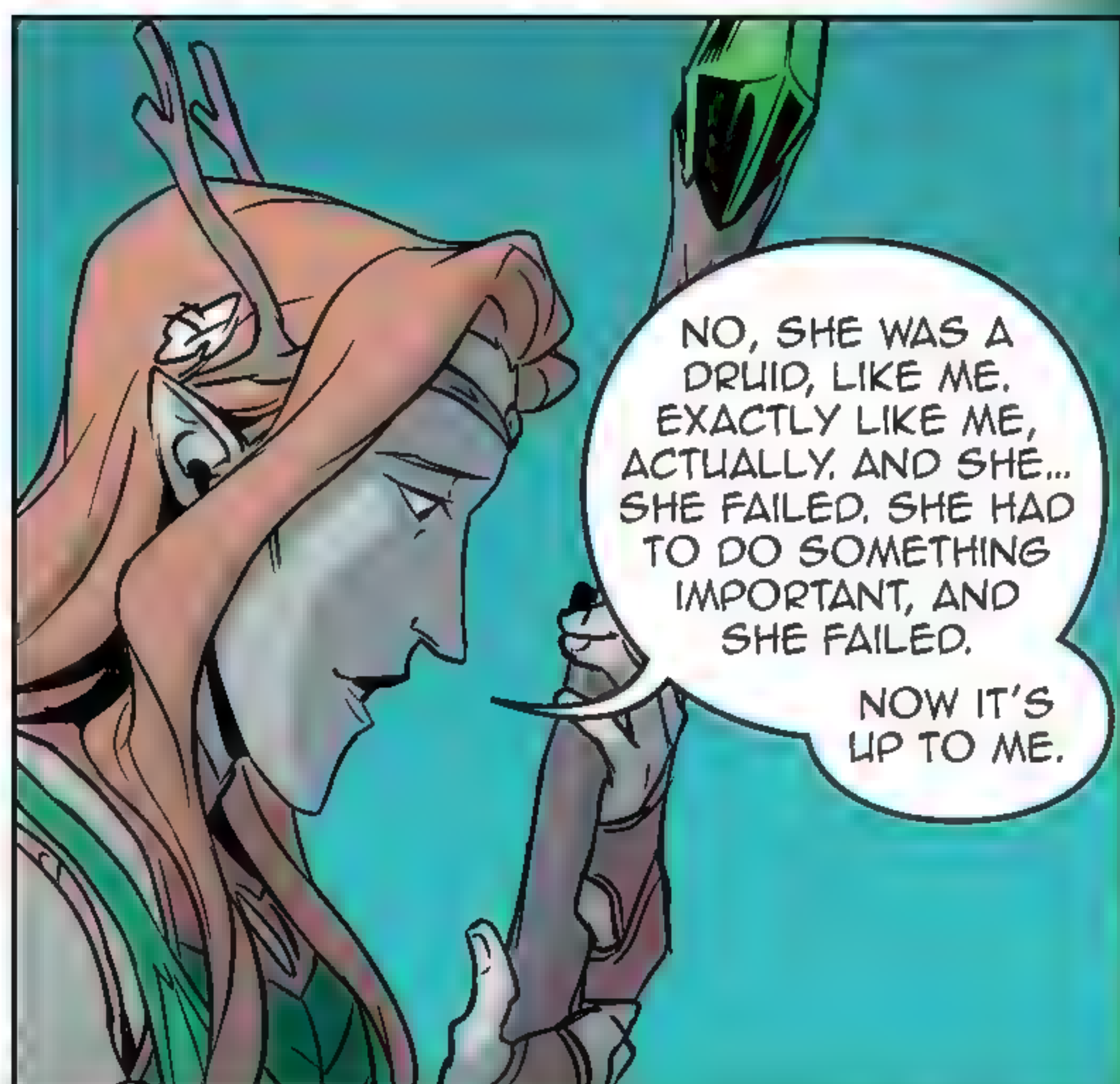
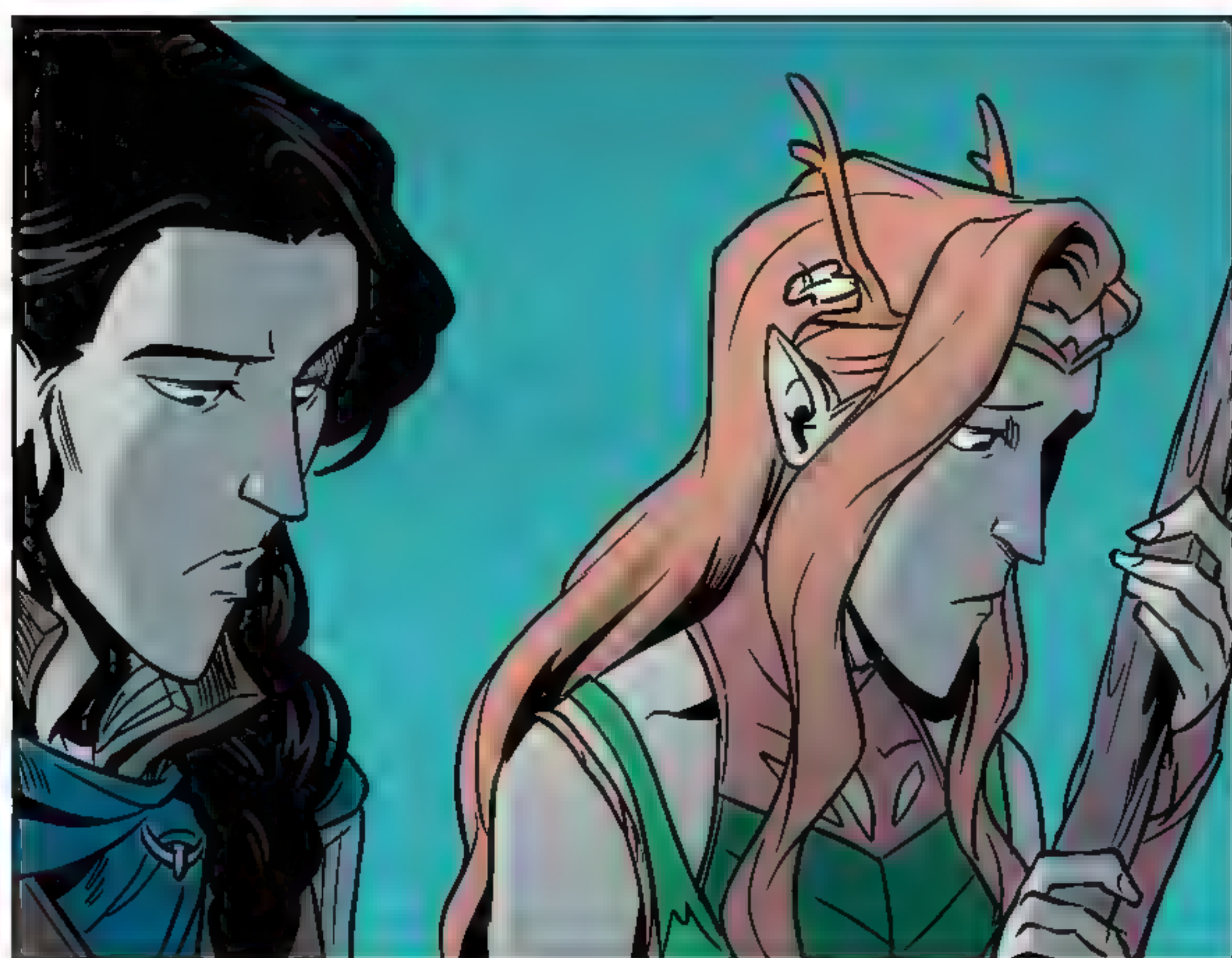
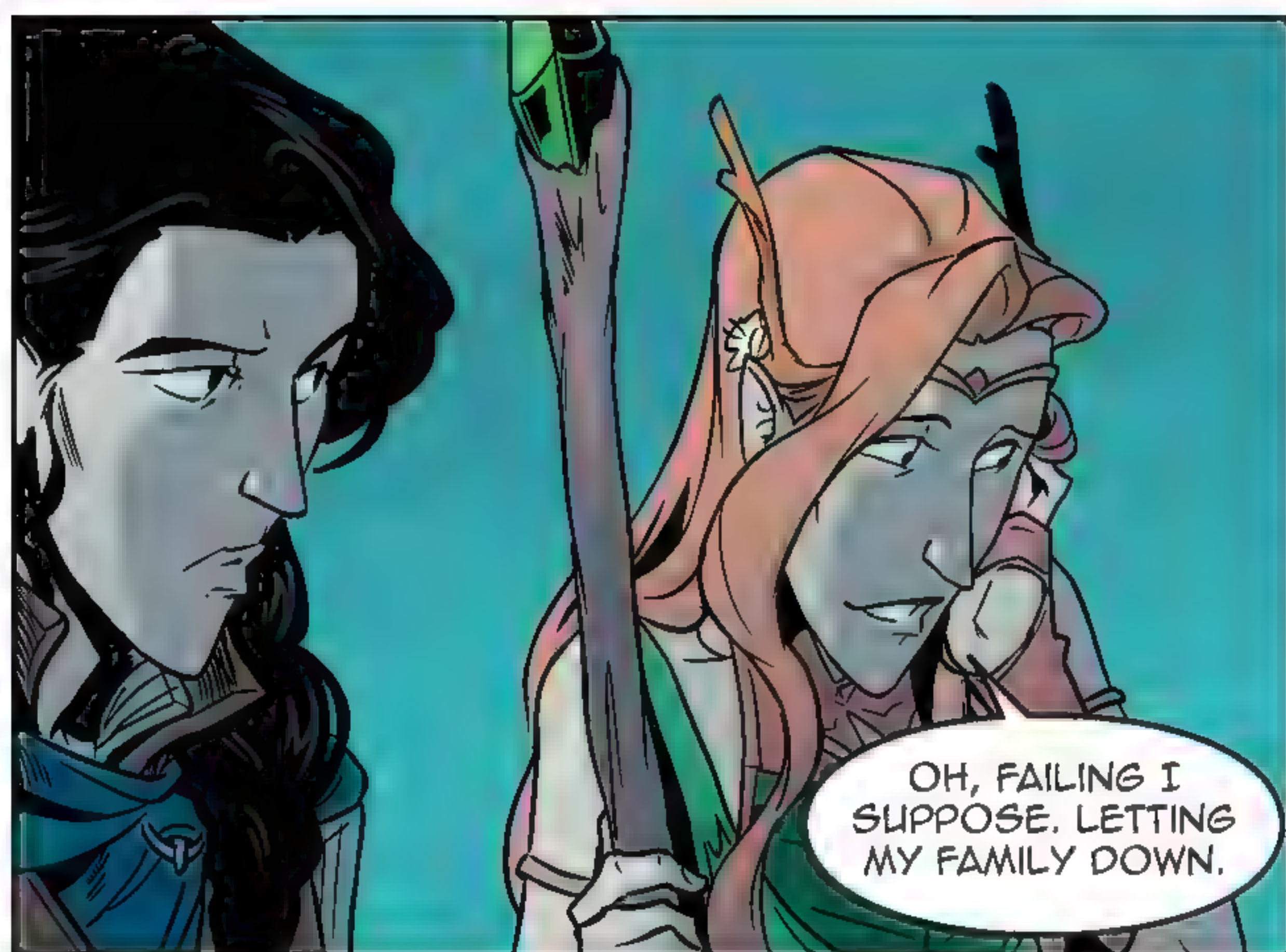
YOU AND YOUR BROTHER AREN'T REALLY MUCH ALIKE, ARE YOU?

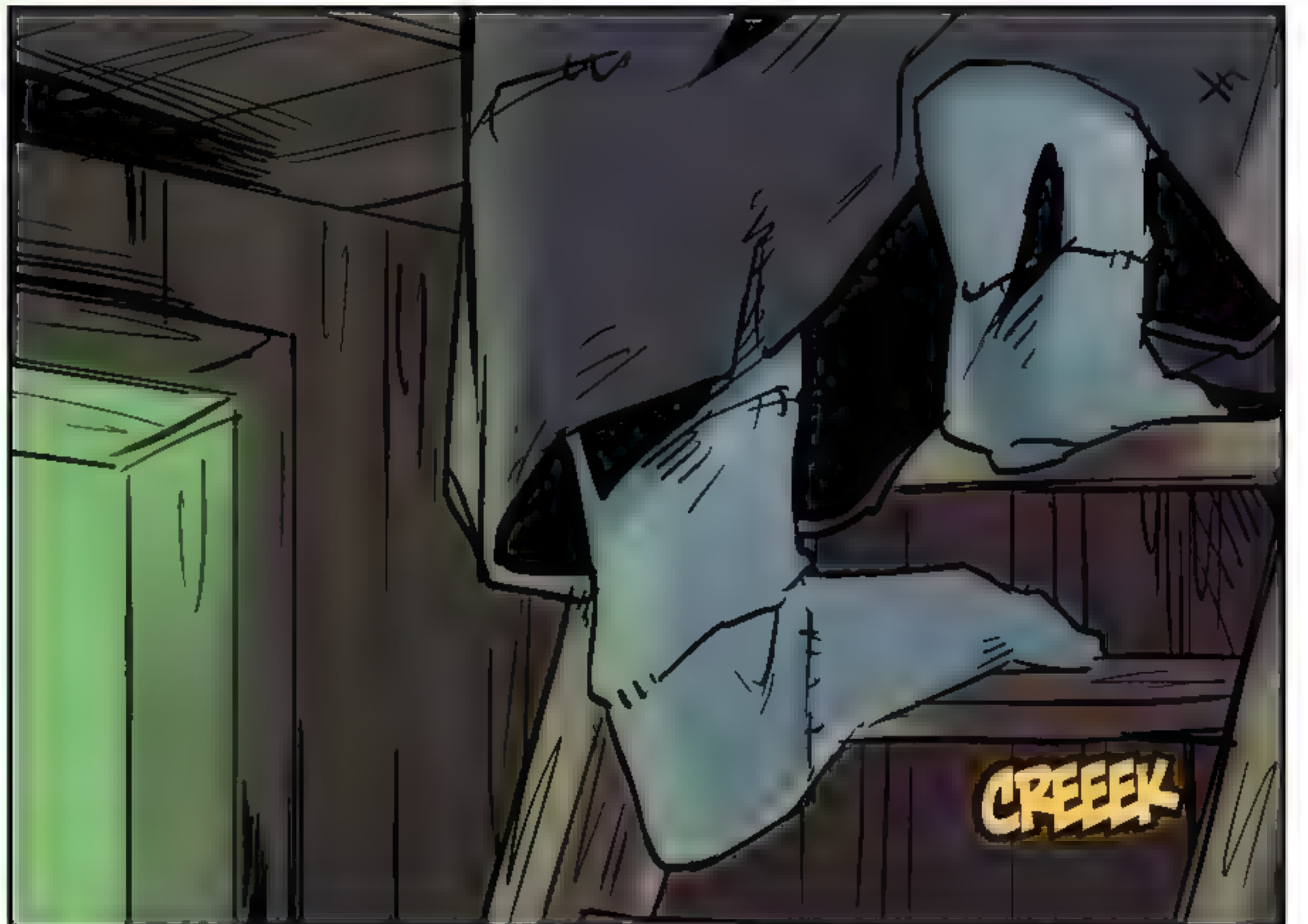
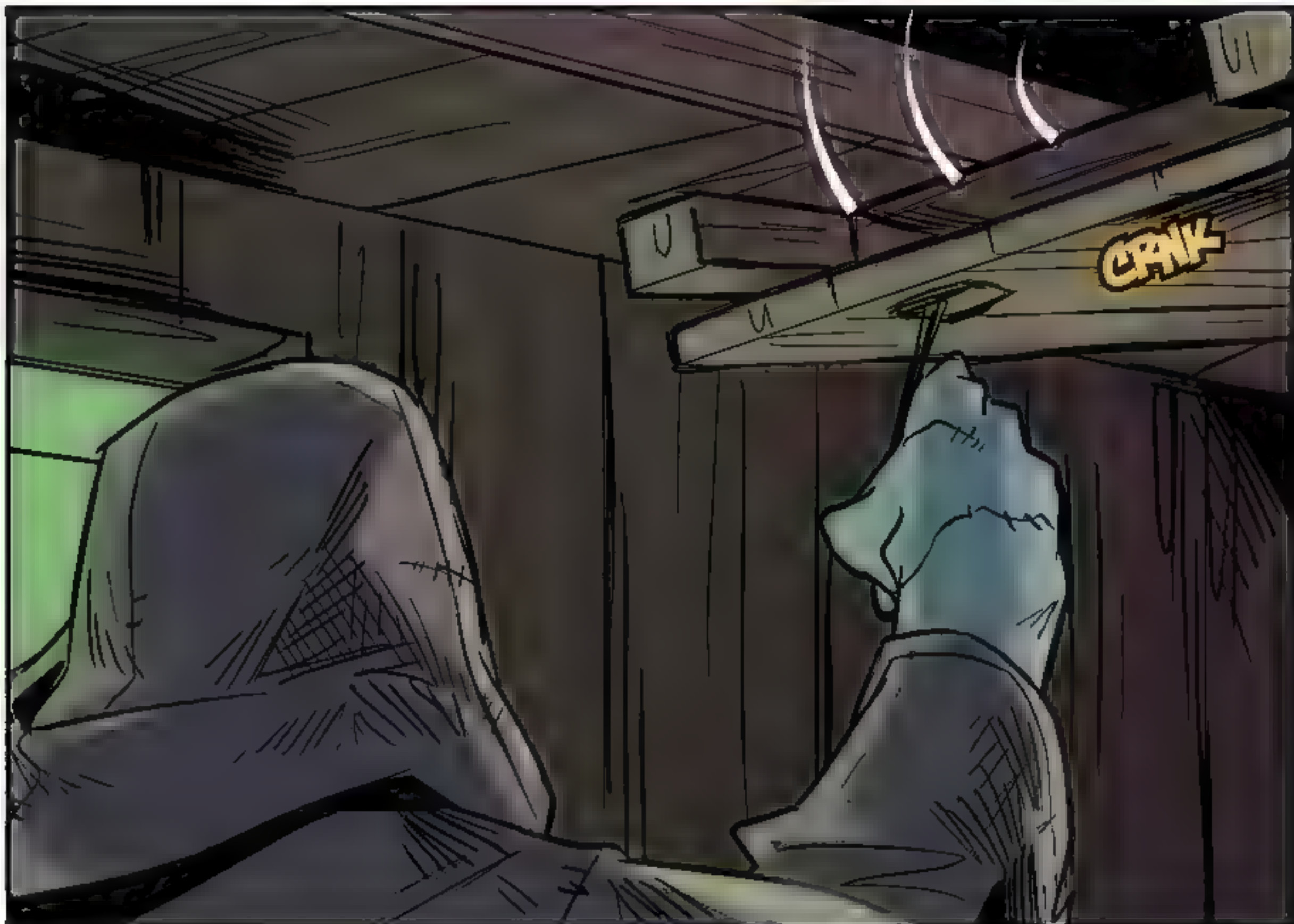
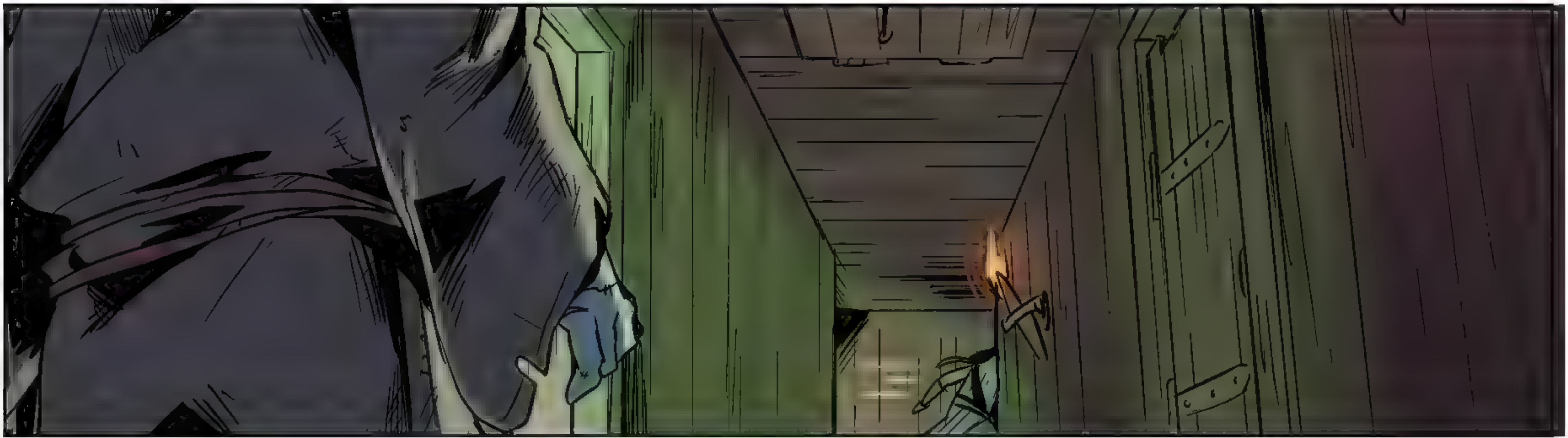
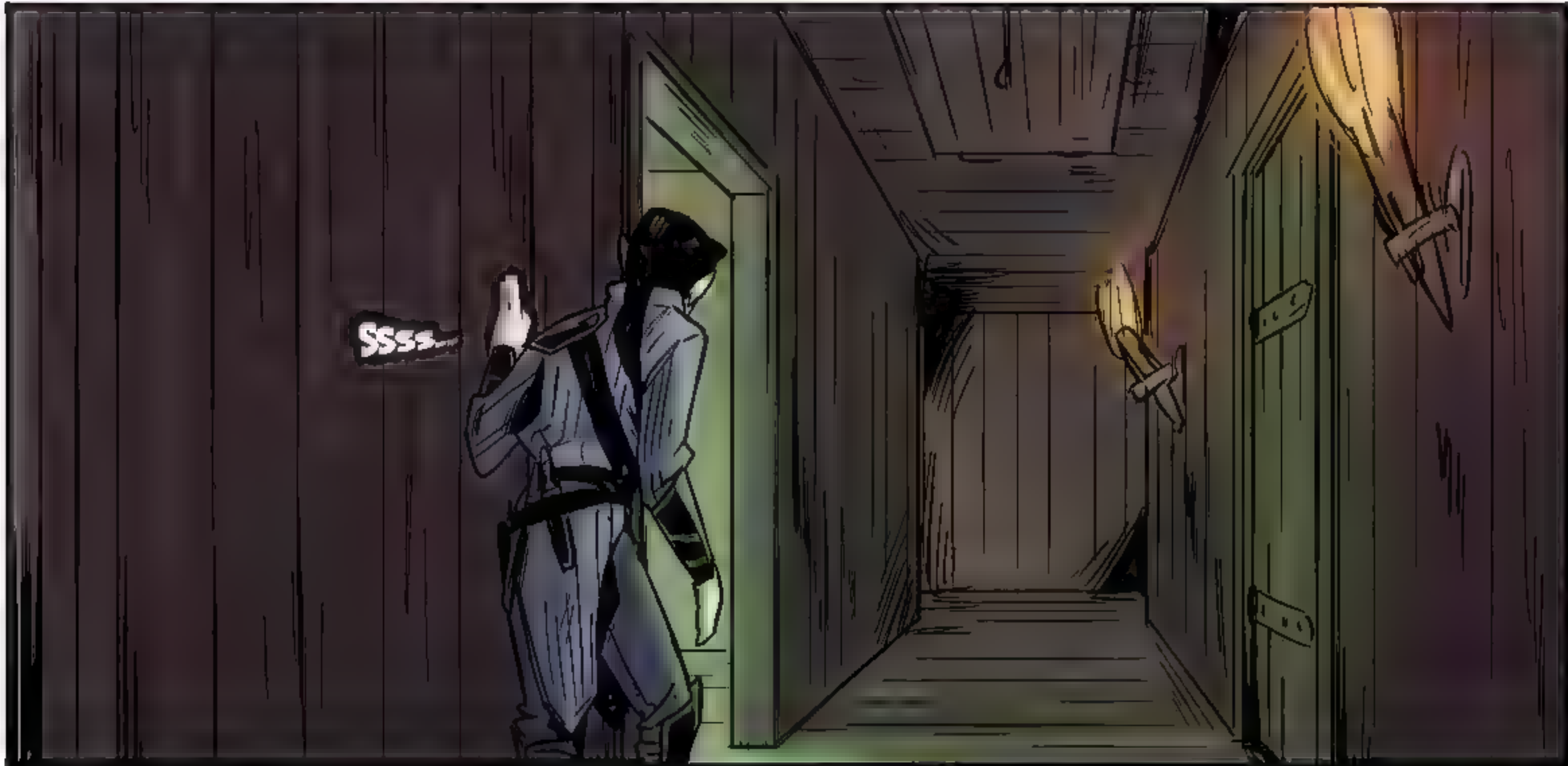
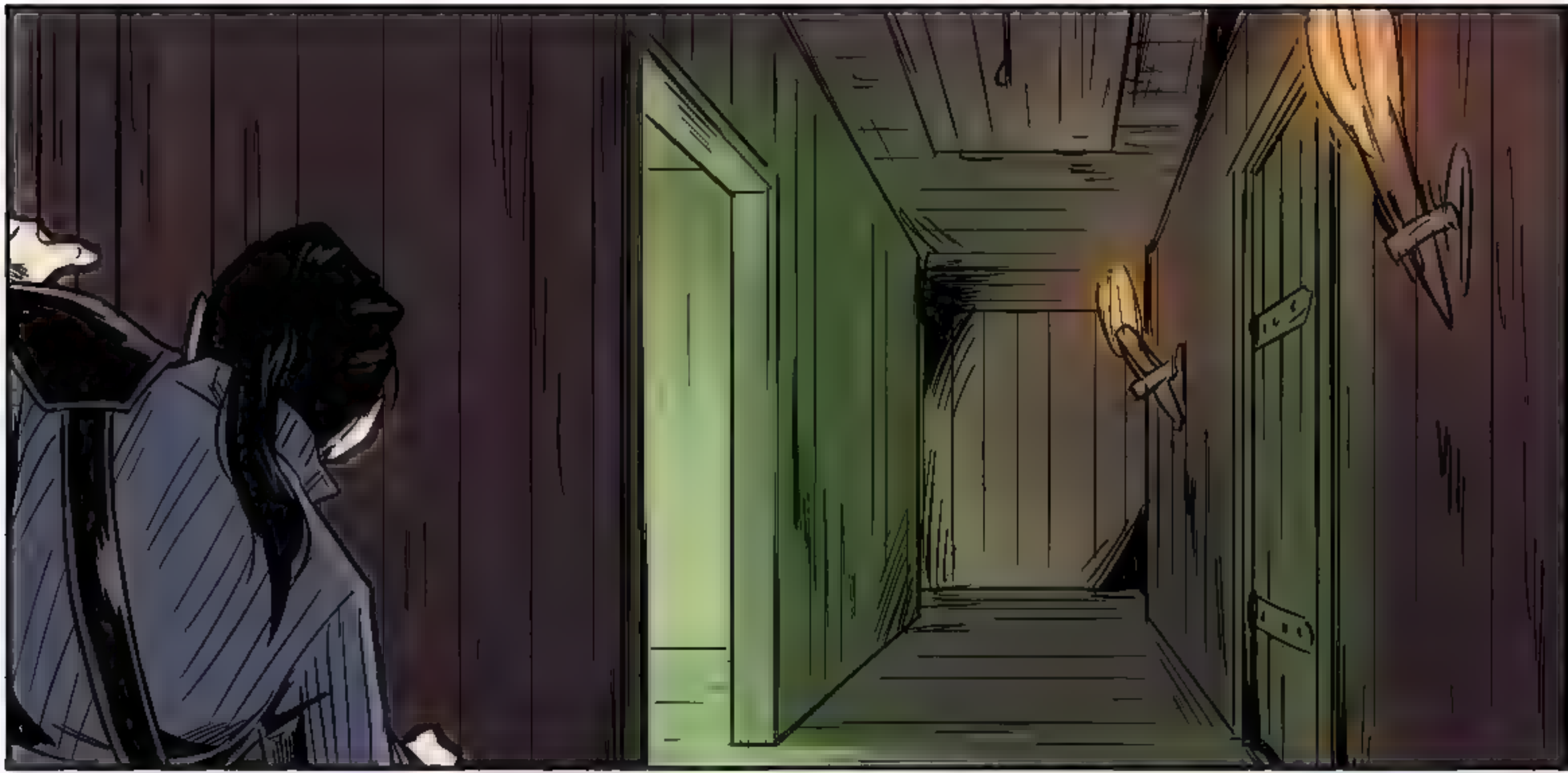
NOT IN THE WAY YOU MEAN, NO. BUT WE BOTH SEE THE WORLD THE SAME WAY.



YOU DO? DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.



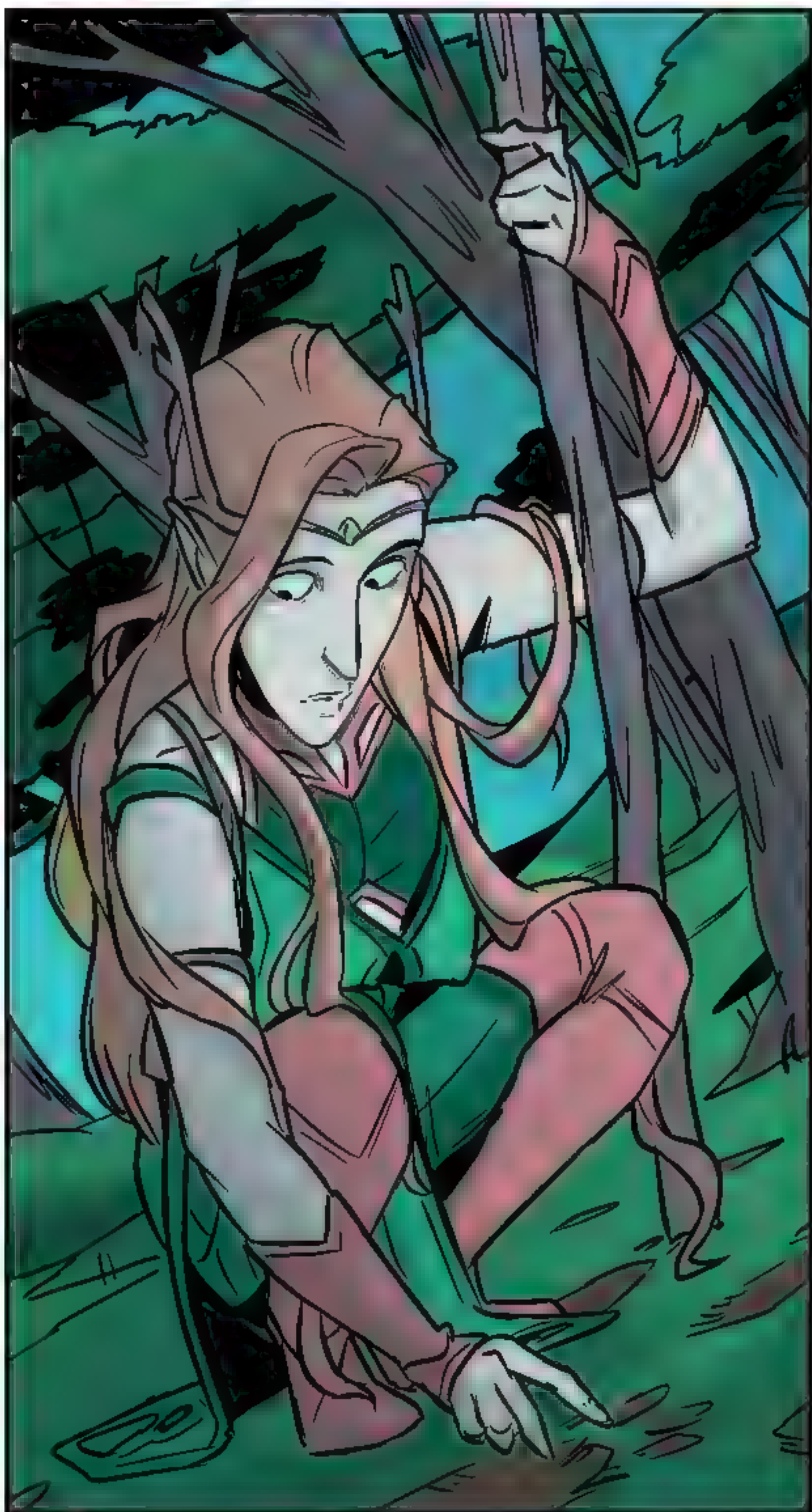






ANYWAY,
STAY HERE.

OKAY!



WHO IS MY
FAVORITE BEAR?!
YOU ARE!



BLECH!

BEAR SLOBBER!

AUGH!



ALL
RIGHT, I FEEL
BETTER ABOUT
OUR CHANCES
NOW.

YOU HAVE
A BEAR?!

WE SORT
OF HAVE
EACH
OTHER.

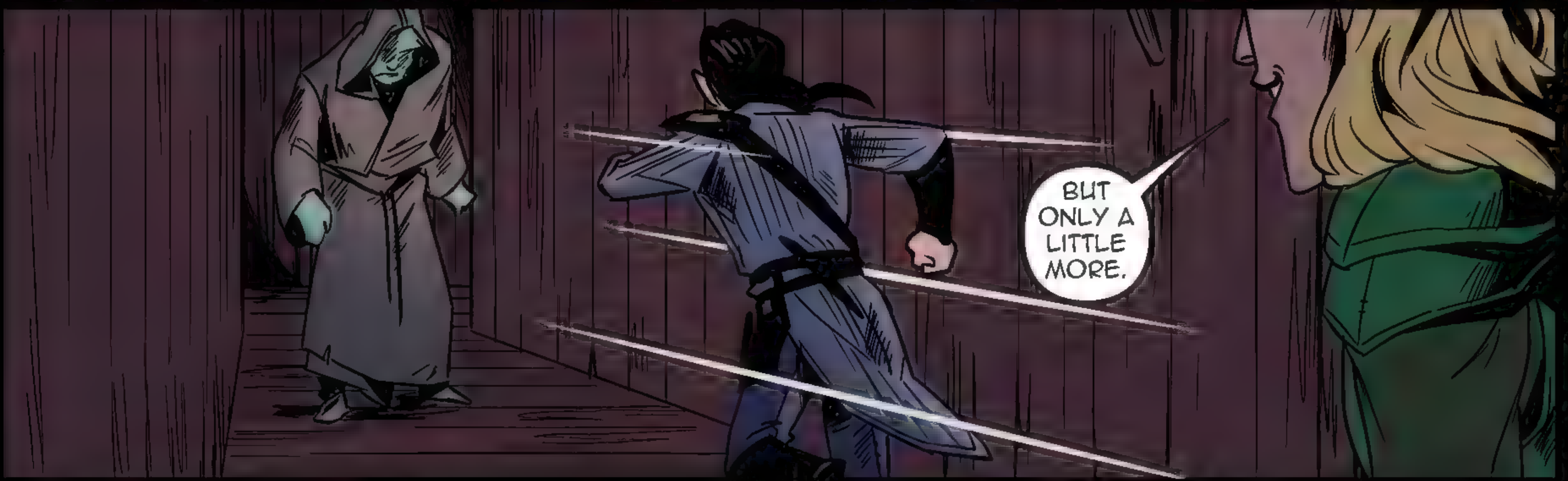
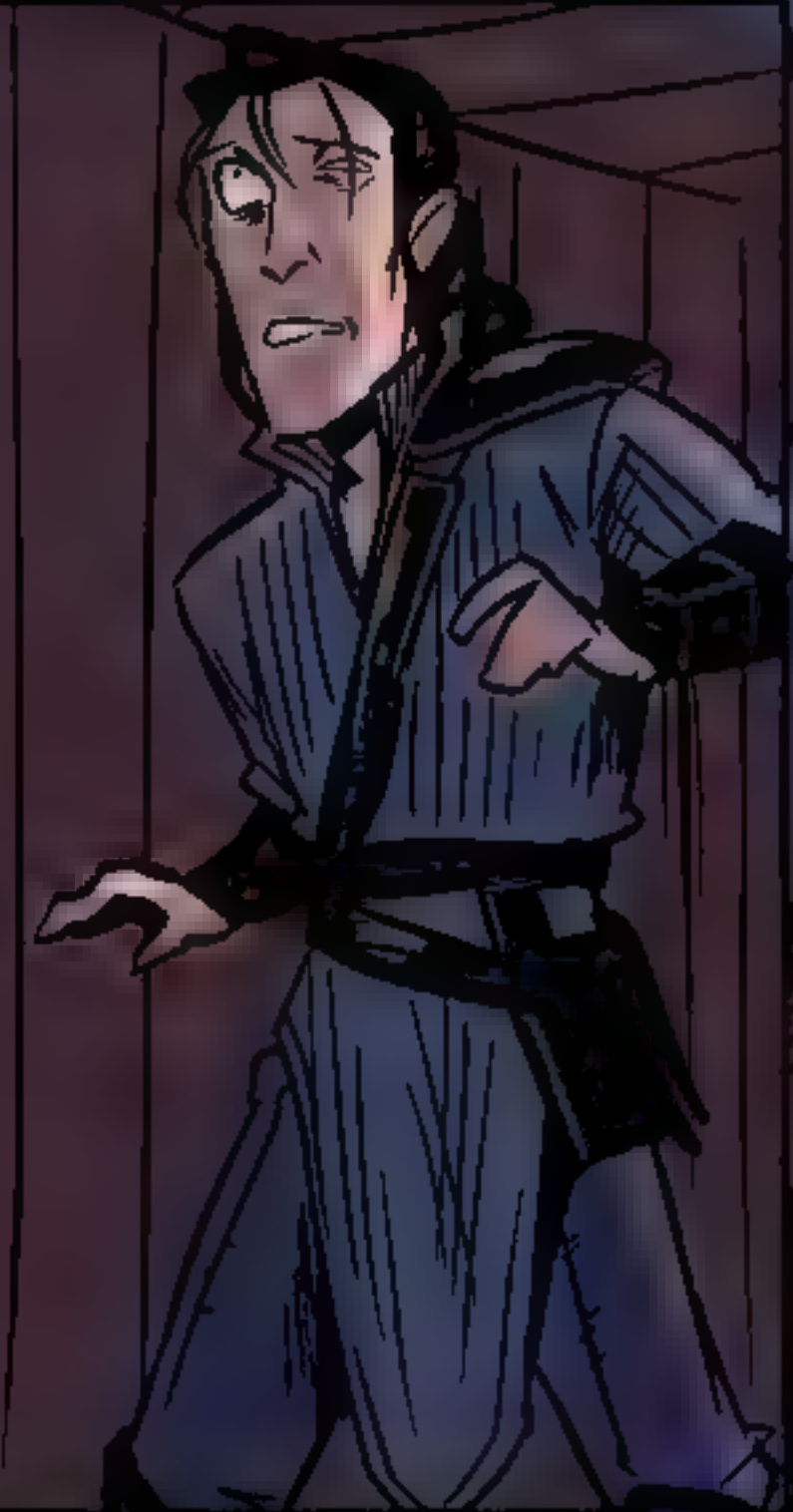
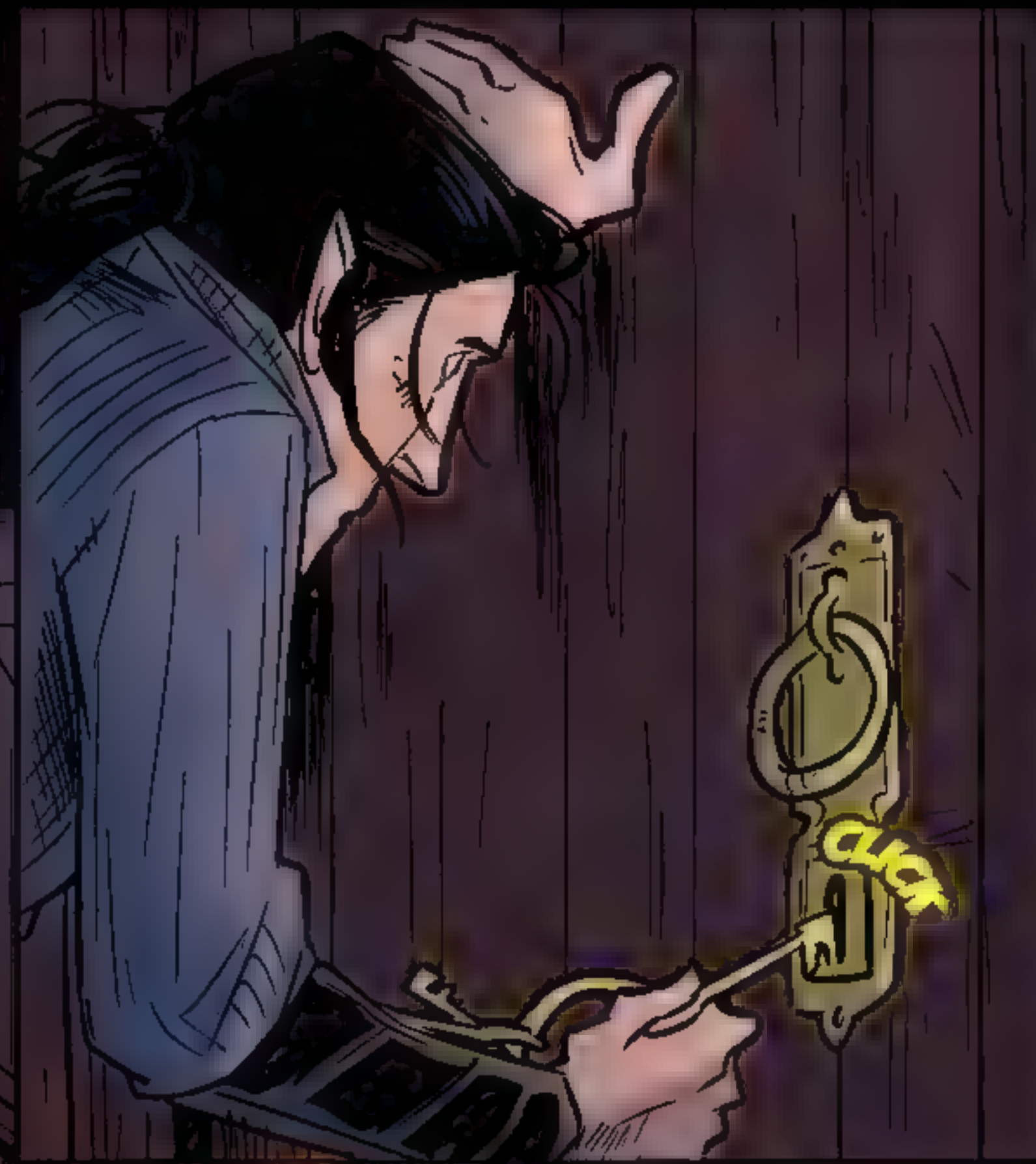
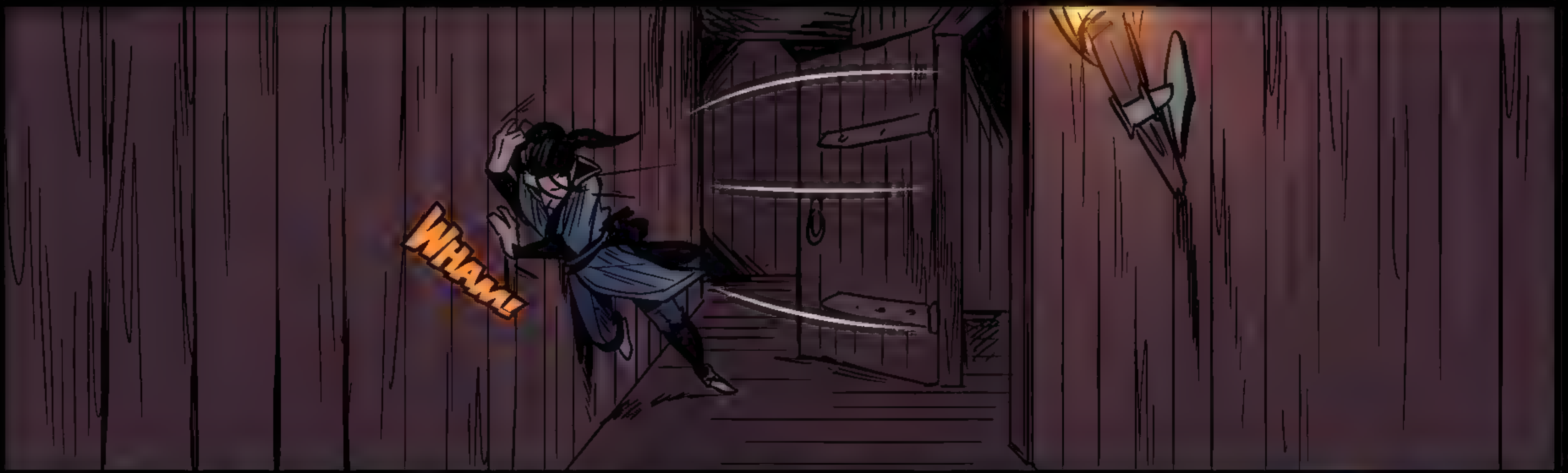


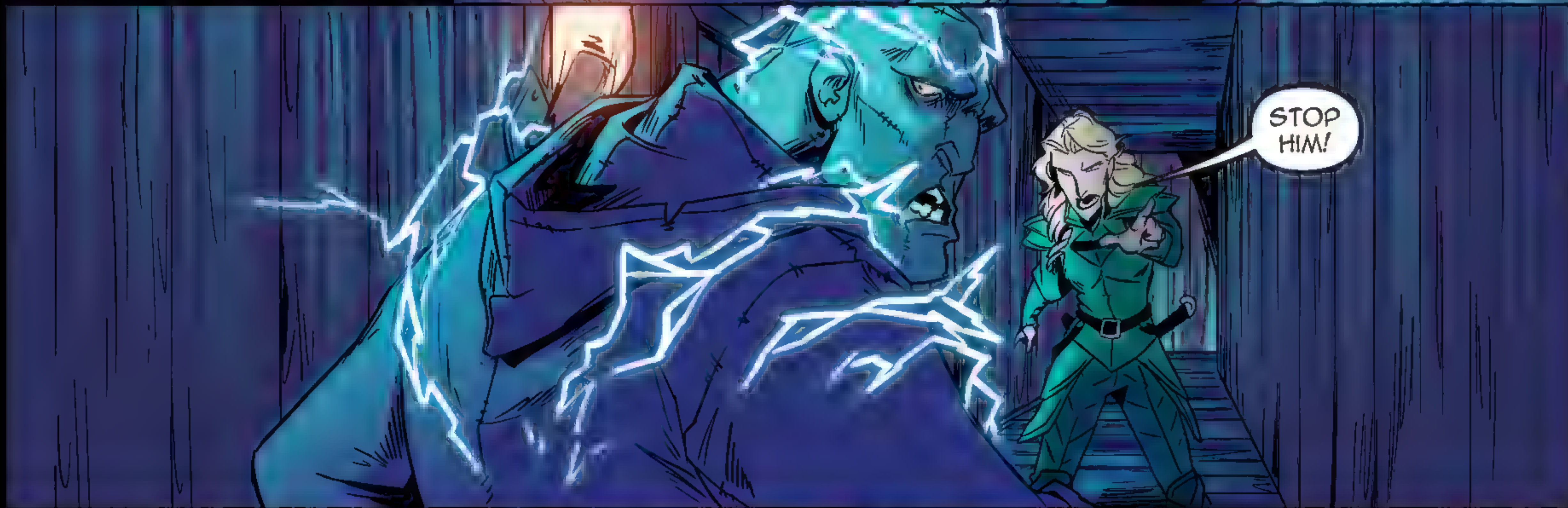
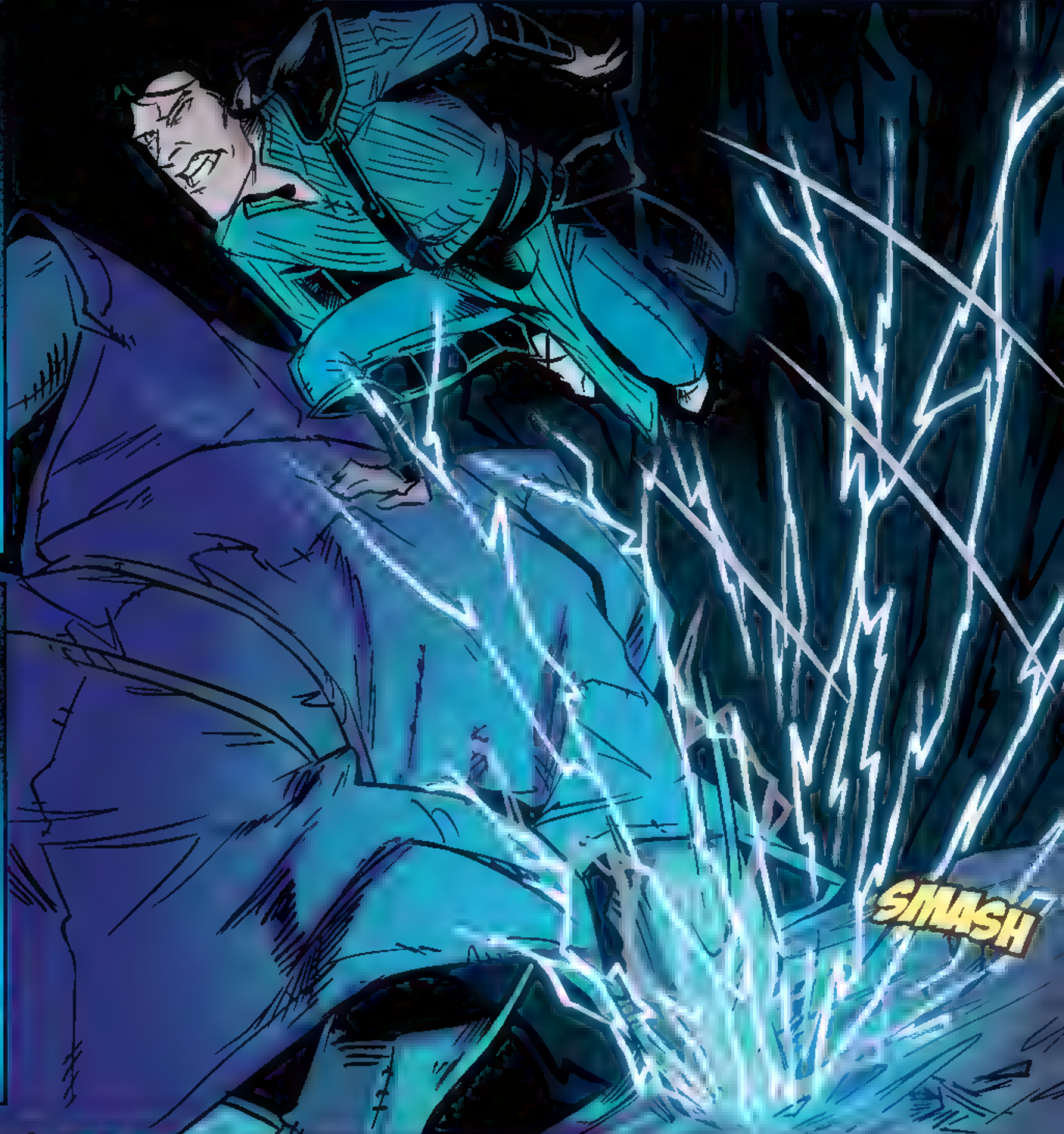
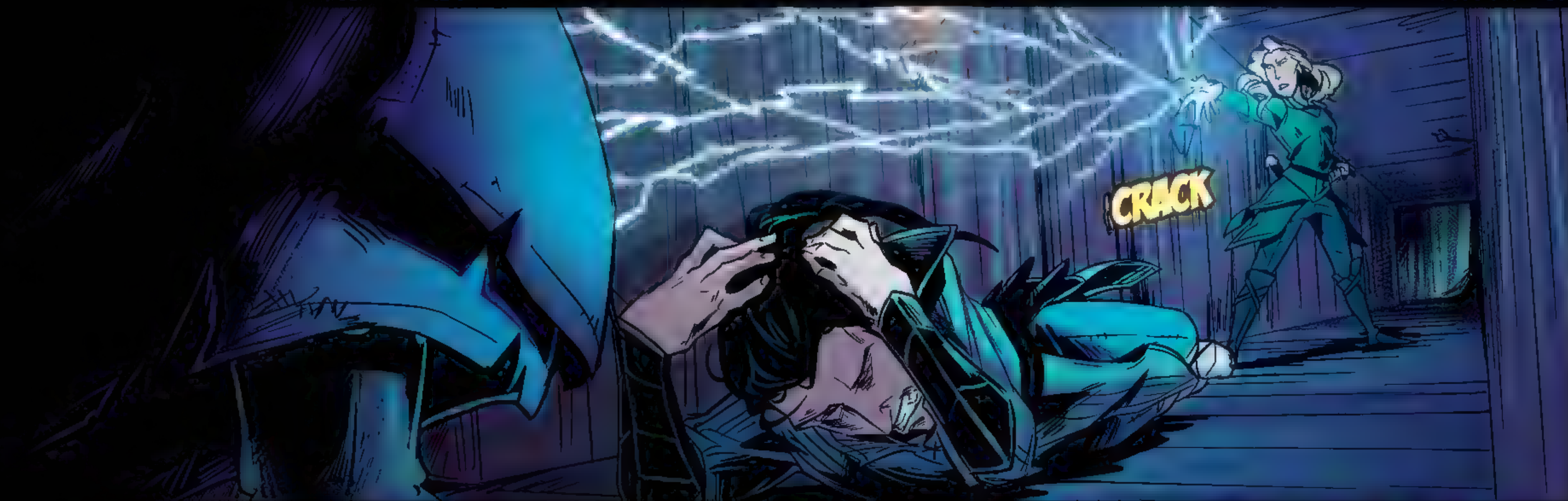
VAX THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE TOUGH BRINGING A
BEAR INTO TOWN. HE WAS
PROBABLY RIGHT BUT...
WE NEED ALL THE
HELP WE CAN GET.

RRUUU

OKAY,
TRINKET
LIKES YOU.
WE CAN BE
FRIENDS.









I WASN'T 'WANDERING THE SWAMP,' I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU! I'M CERTAIN I WAS JUST GETTING THE HANG OF TRACKING.

UH-HUH.

WOW, THE SMELL IS STRONG HERE.

YEAH, A LOT OF SMELLS ARE, I BET.



I'M GUESSING OUR QUARRY IS ON A SHIP?



YOU GUESS CORRECTLY!



YAY!

OH, GOOD. THE GNOME AND THE HALF-GIANT. DID YOU BRING THE BOOK?



FORGET THE BOOK. IT'S A MACGUFFIN, AND IN CODE.

I OVERHEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT WHICH SHIP THEY USE TO BRING THE POISON IN.



AND HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST US?

YOU WOUND ME, LADY!

IMPLYING I WOULD **SELL** YOU SUCH IMPORTANT, SUCH **PERSONALLY** IMPORTANT INFORMATION!



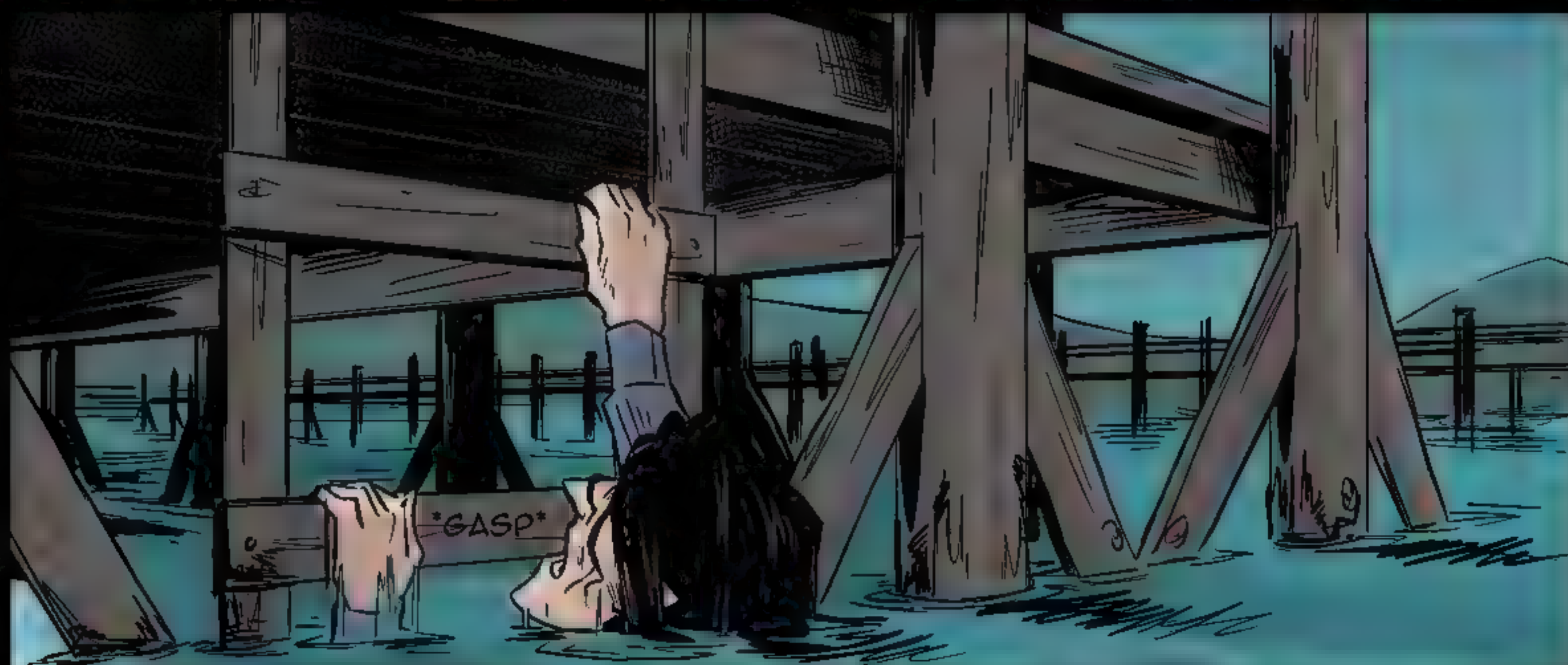
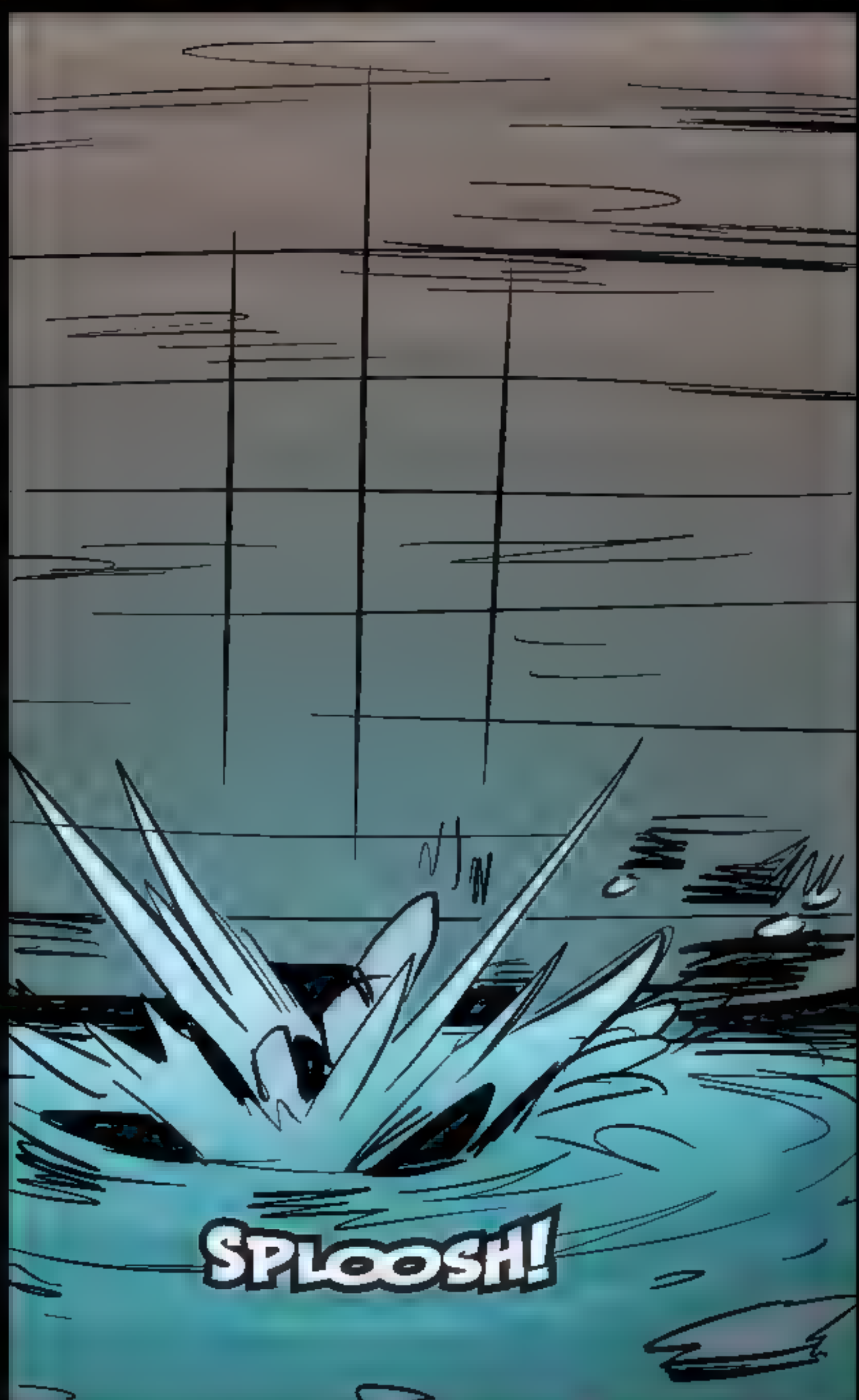
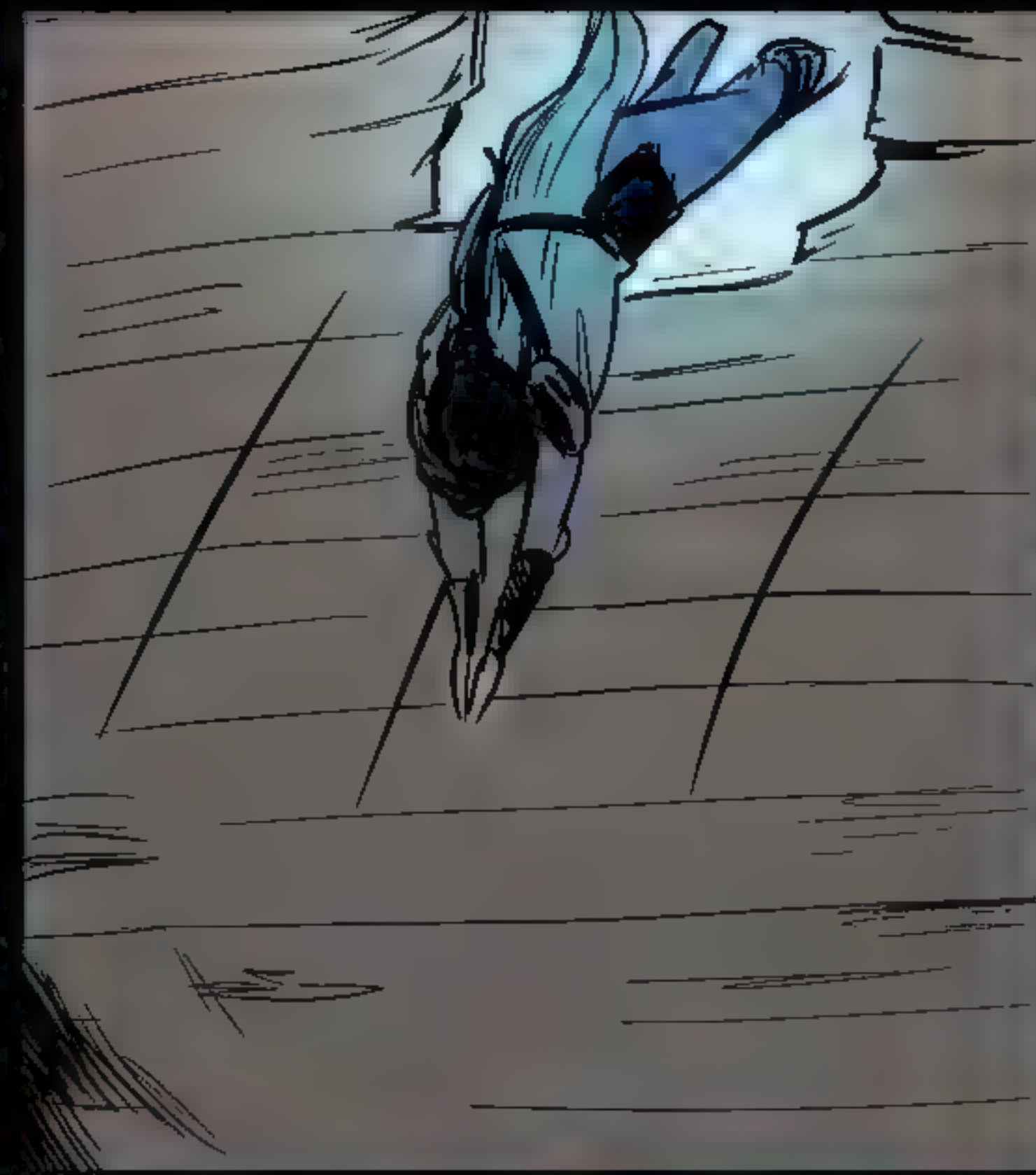
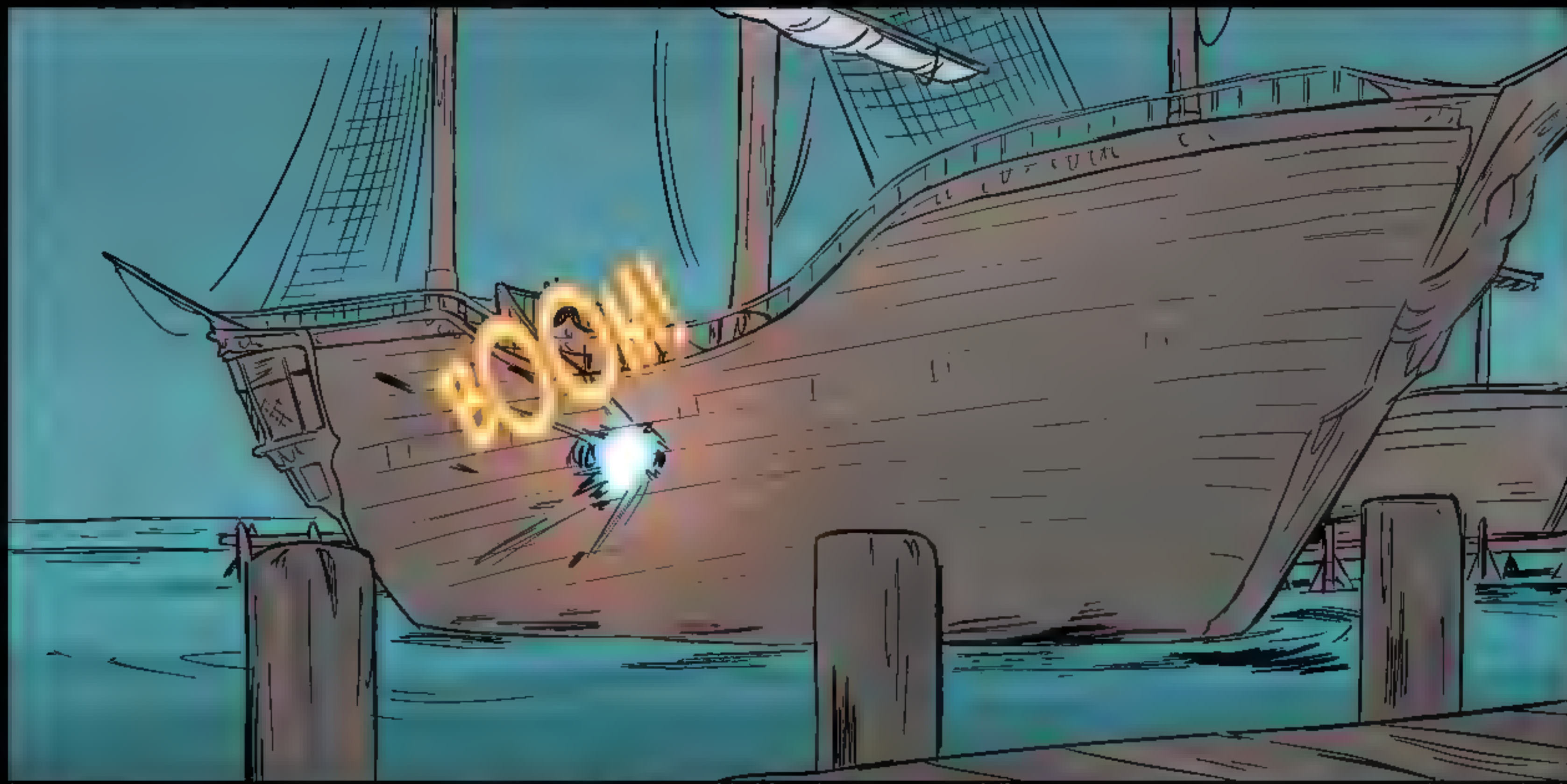
DAT'S WHAT YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA DO.

WELL YES, BUT NOW IF I DID IT, IT WOULD MAKE HER **RIGHT**.



SO PROVE ME WRONG. WHICH SHIP IS MY BROTHER ON?

THAT ONE.





LET'S GO. FAR FROM THIS PLACE. THEY WANT TO POISON THIS CITY, THEY'RE WELCOME TO IT.



NO. NO, THE DRUID AND...SORCERER WERE...WRONG. IT IS A CURSE.

WHAT...?

THE POISON'S JUST A COMPONENT. IT'S GOING TO KILL EVERYONE WHO EVER DRANK...EVER TOUCHED THAT WATER.



AND I'M GOING TO STOP THEM.

WHAT?!



ALONE IF I HAVE TO.



NO. NOT ALONE. NEVER ALONE. WE GO TOGETHER. ALWAYS.

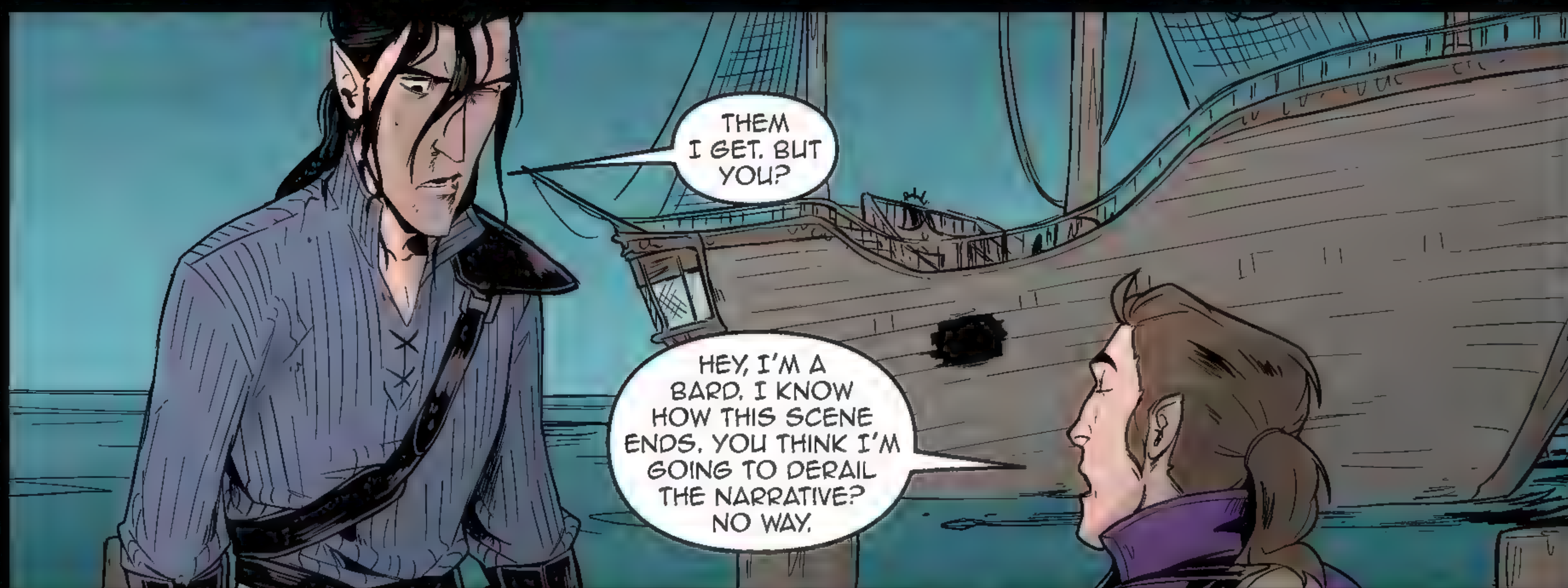
WE GO TOGETHER.

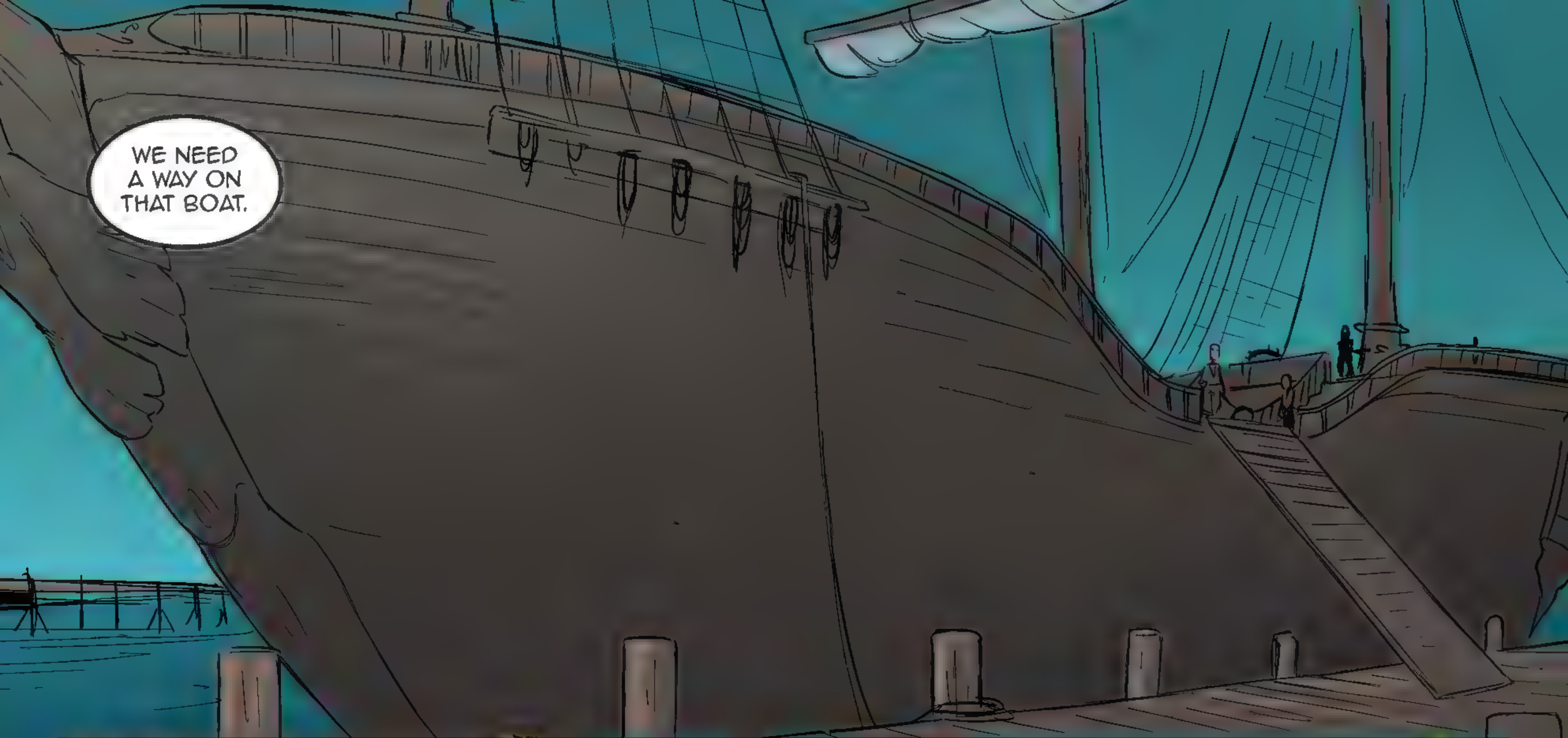
YOU?



US. US, THE SIX OF US. I MEAN OTHERWISE... WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ANYTHING? TIBERIUS, SAY SOMETHING.

WELL OF COURSE, I AGREE! WE MUST BAND TOGETHER AND STOP THAT WOMAN. SHE'S A HUGE BUTTHEAD.



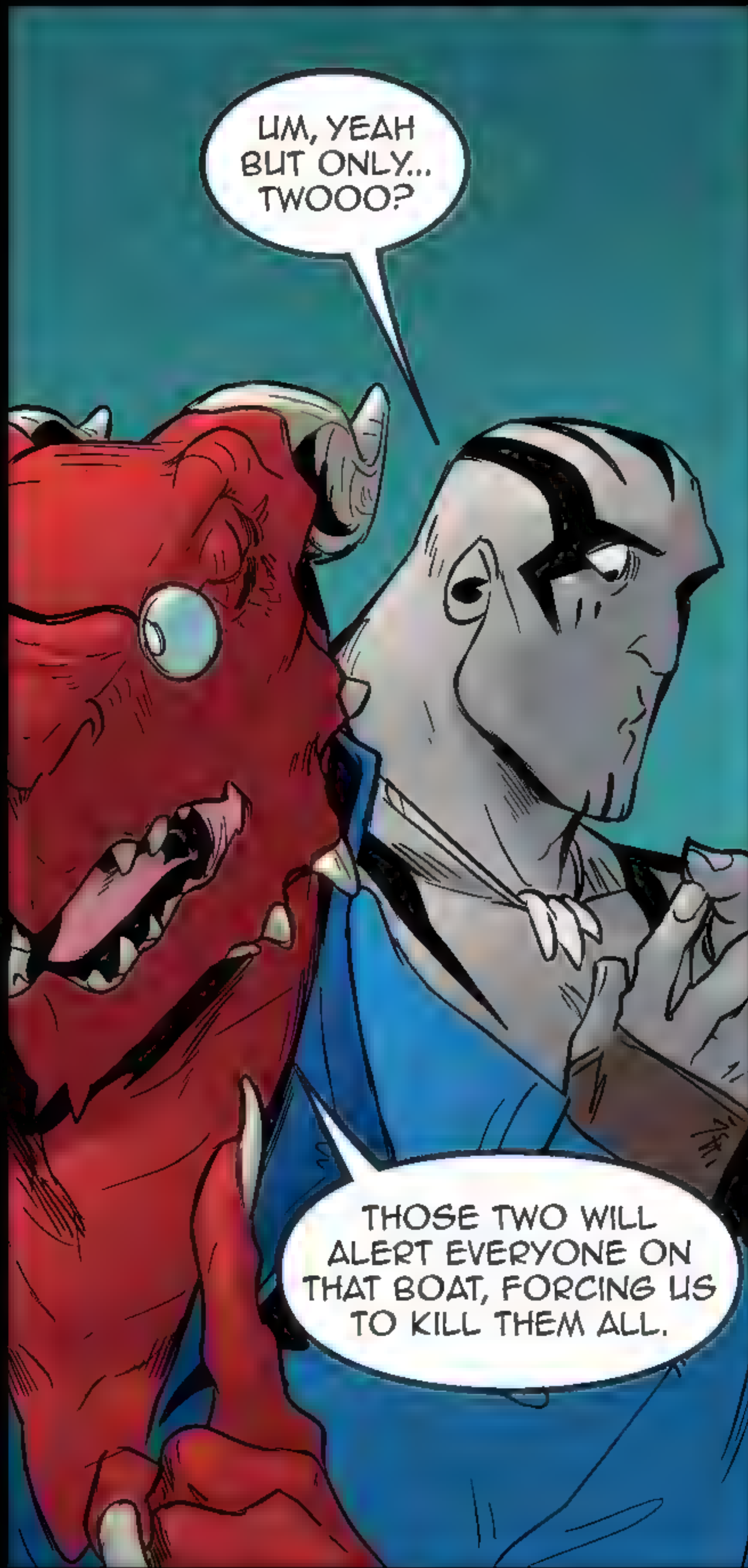


WE NEED
A WAY ON
THAT BOAT.



THERE'S A
RAMP RIGHT
HERE.

GROG, THEY
HAVE GUARDS
POSTED.



UM, YEAH
BUT ONLY...
TWOOO?

THOSE TWO WILL
ALERT EVERYONE ON
THAT BOAT, FORCING US
TO KILL THEM ALL.

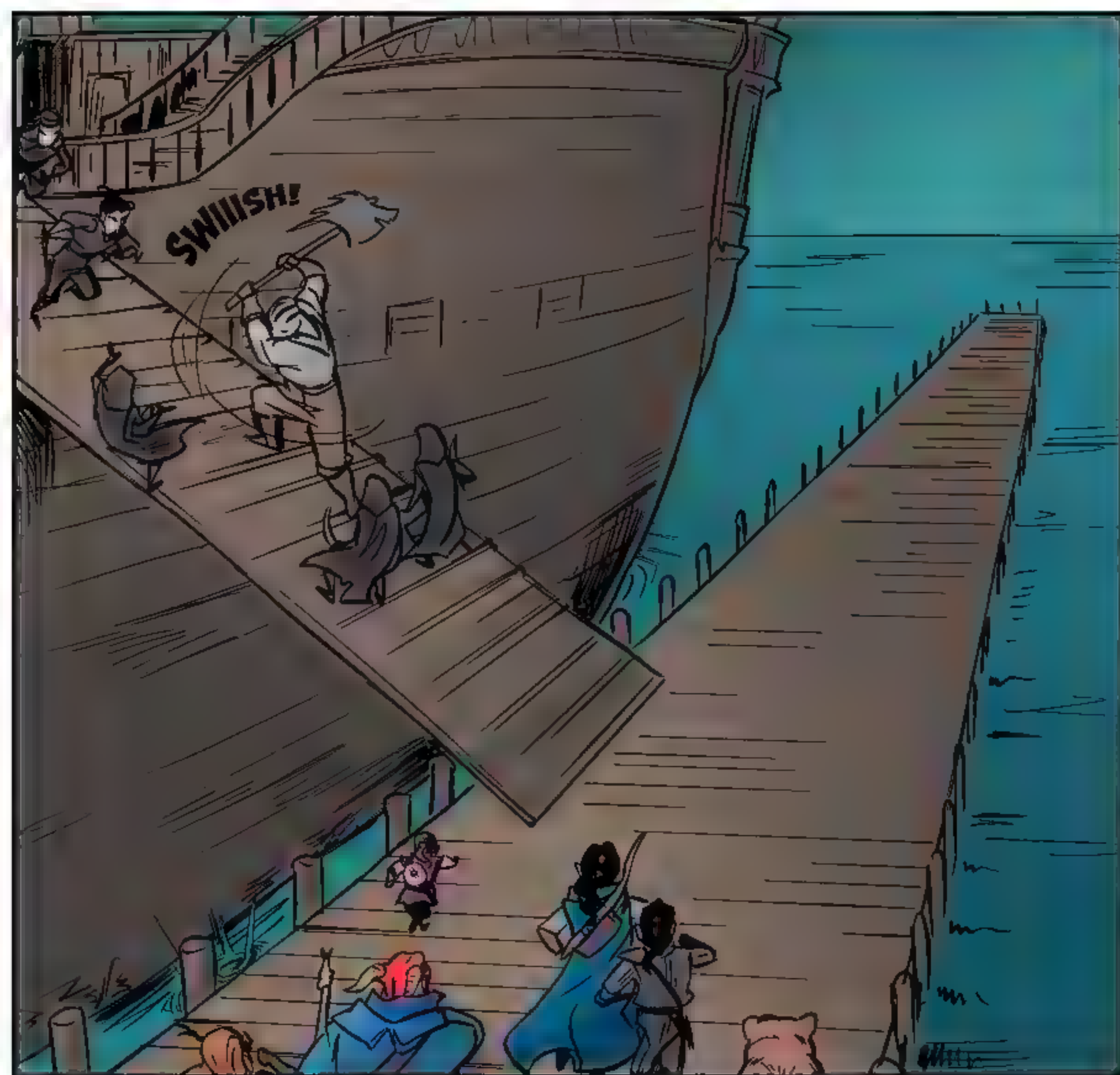


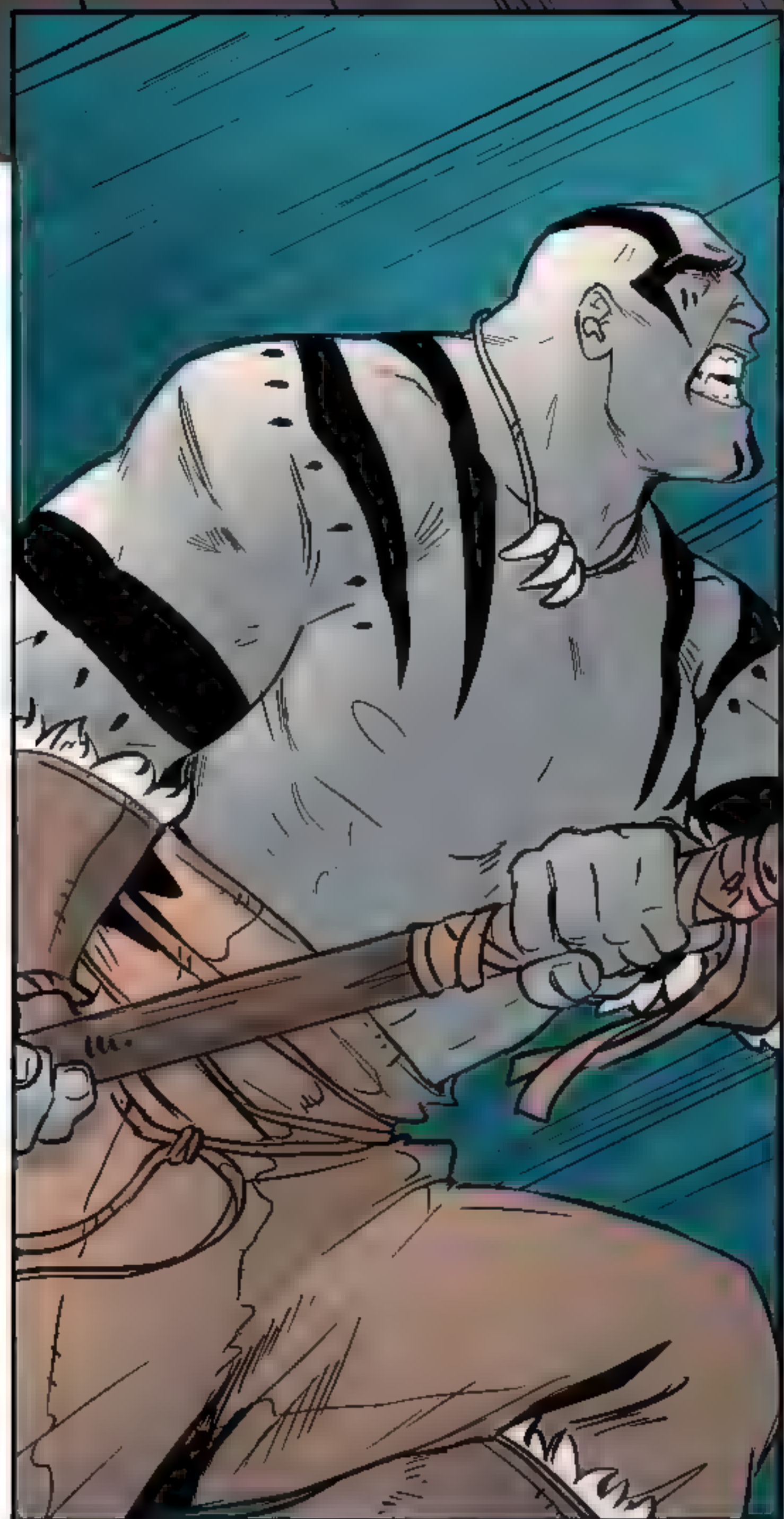
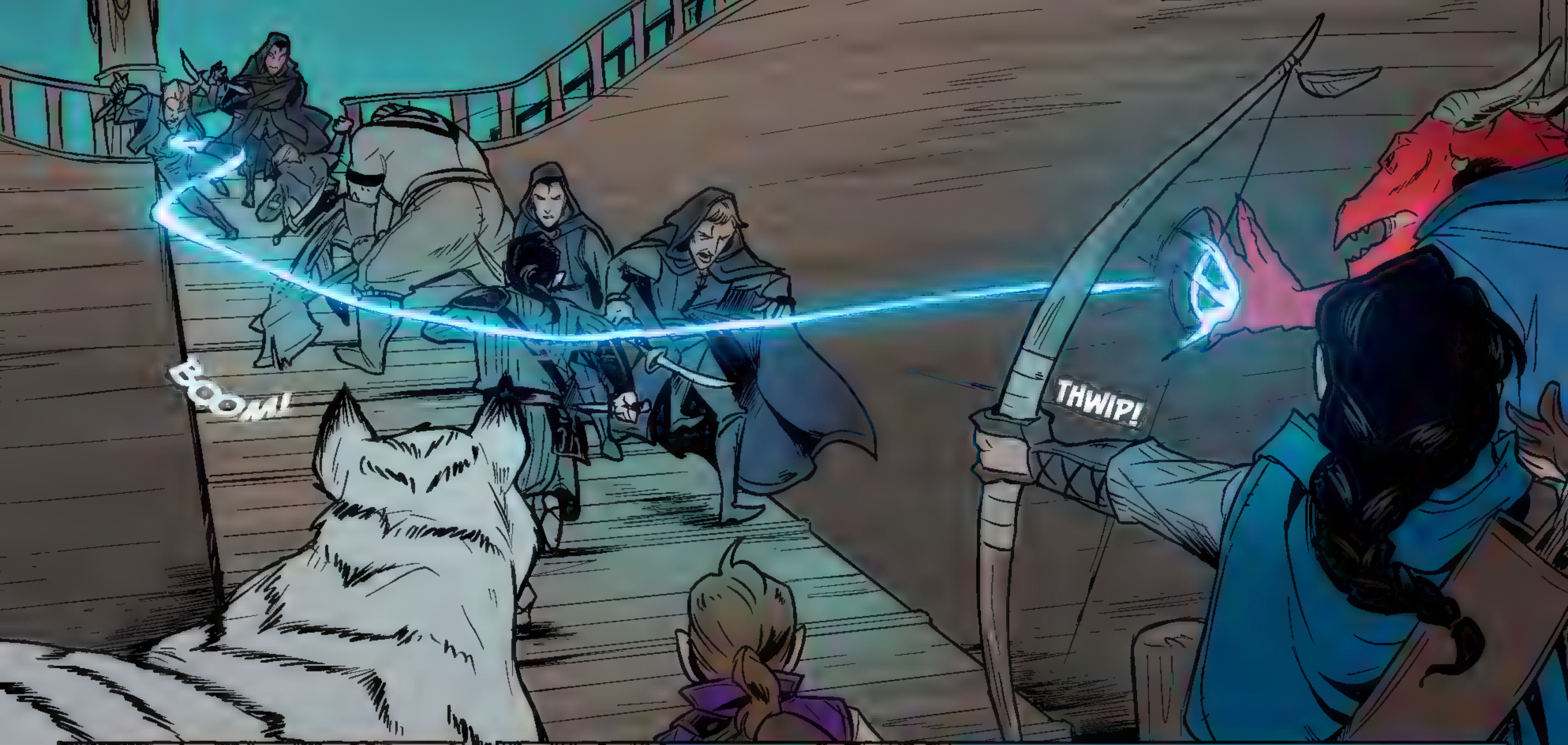
I CAN CONTROL
THE FIRES IN THEIR
LANTERNS, SNUFF
THEM OUT. BOARD
IN THE DARK?

BOARD UNDER
COVER OF NIGHT!
THEY'D NEVER
SEE US. THAT'S
A WONDERFUL
IDEA!



OH, THANK
YOU, LADY!









SHIT, GROG, COULD YOU STAY IN A FIGHT LONGER THAN THIRTY SECONDS, PLEASE?

HOW DEEP IS THAT WATER? THERE COULD BE ANYTHING DOWN THERE. SHARKS!



WELL, THEY'LL PROBABLY BE OKAY AS LONG AS THEY DON'T ANNOY HIM. COME ON. IF WE WAIT FOR GROG WE'LL BE TOO LATE.



IT'S BROKEN. IT'S BROKEN. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. FUCK.



OH! AH, YEAH! GREAT! WOW!



SHE'S JUST NOT USED TO...

YES WE KNOW, ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT, MINUS FIVE POINTS FOR REPETITION. COME ON.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?

SORT OF...



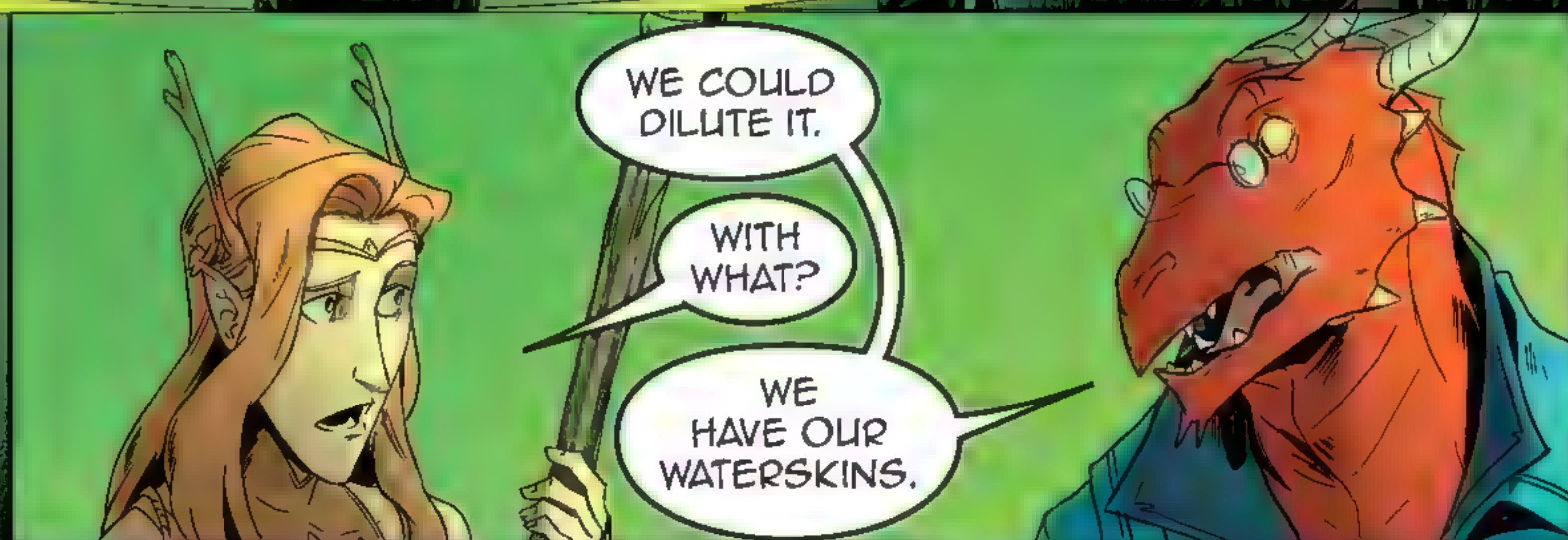
THIS IS IT.

WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?

SPIRITS. I DON'T KNOW. SOULS. THE SOULS OF EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE POISON THEY'VE BEEN POURING INTO THE SWAMP.



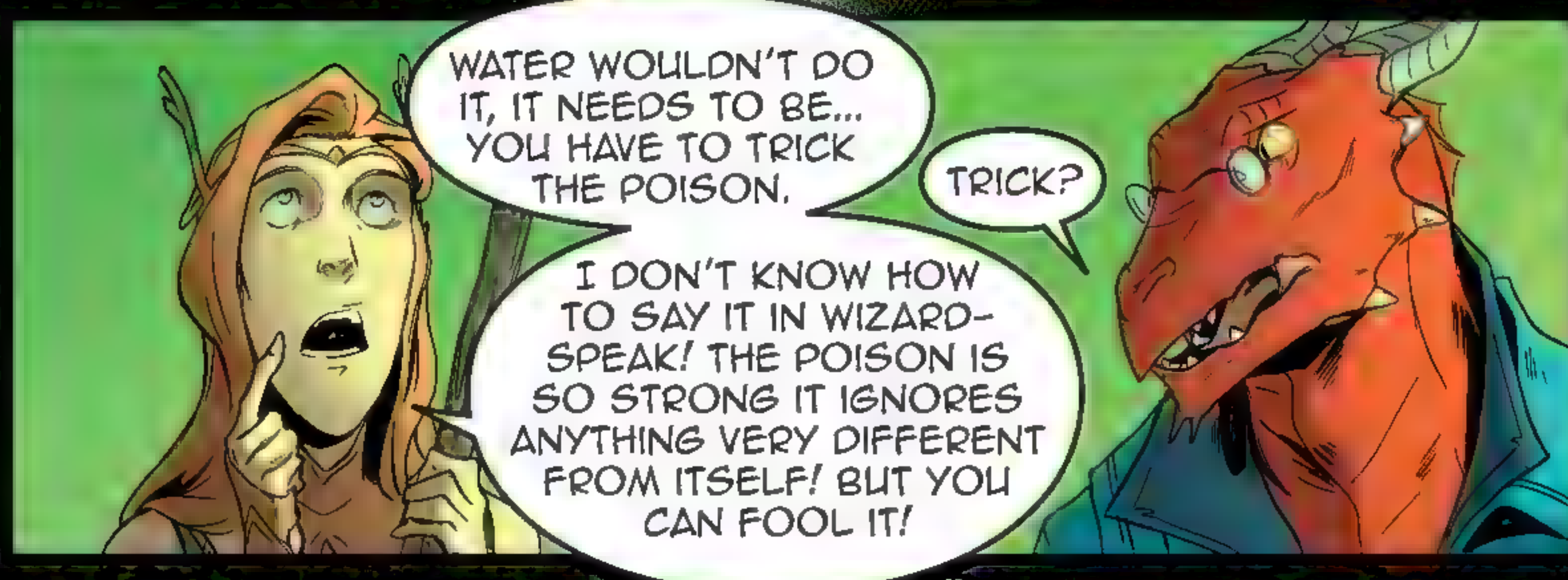
THIS EXPLAINS MUCH. THE AQUA CAEDES IS RUMORED TO KILL WHOLE POPULATIONS BECAUSE IT IS NATURALLY RESONANT WITH ARCANISM. THIS IS DEEP LORE...



WE COULD DILUTE IT.

WITH WHAT?

WE HAVE OUR WATERSKINS.



WATER WOULDN'T DO IT, IT NEEDS TO BE... YOU HAVE TO TRICK THE POISON.

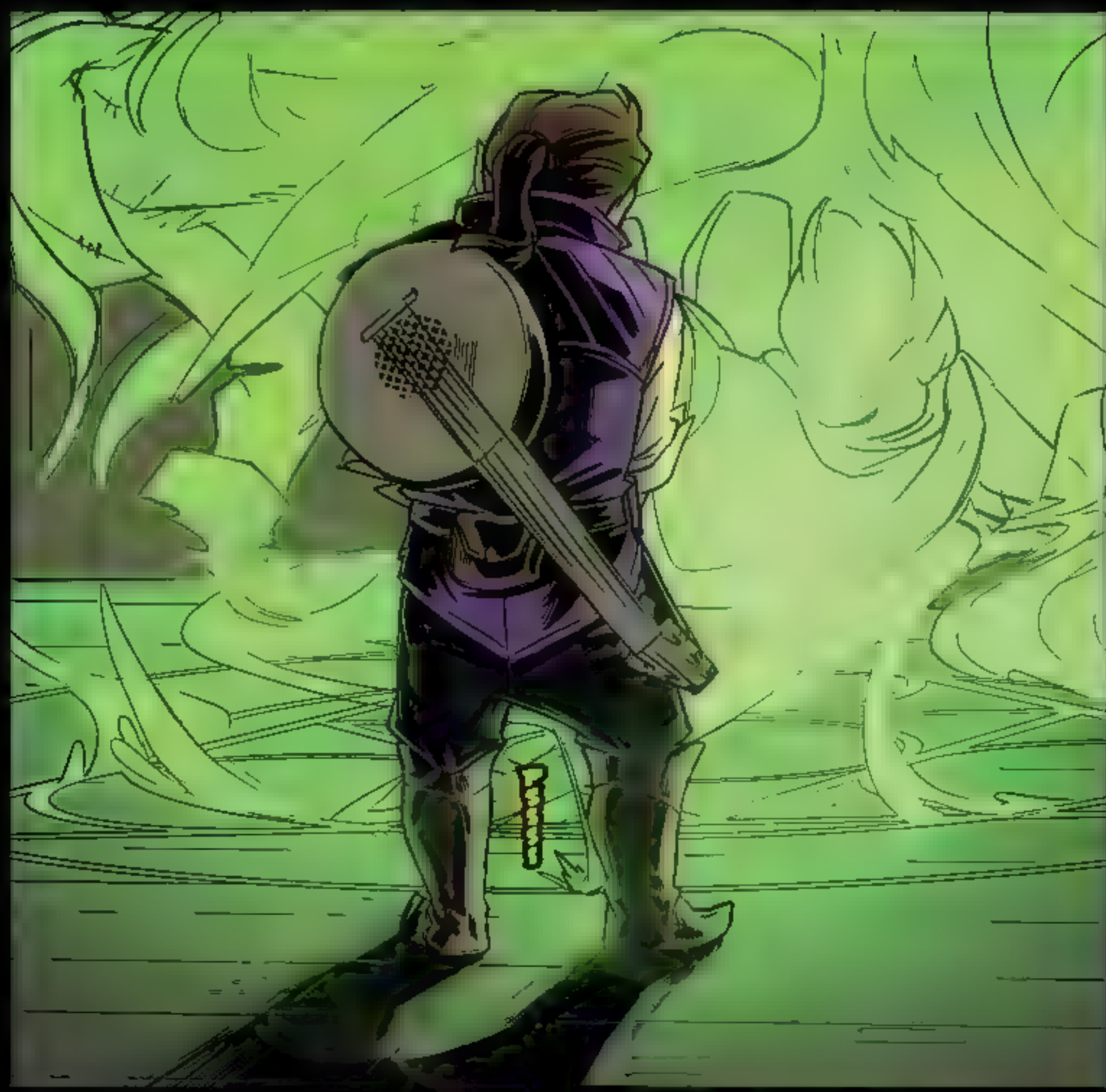
TRICK?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT IN WIZARD-SPEAK! THE POISON IS SO STRONG IT IGNORES ANYTHING VERY DIFFERENT FROM ITSELF! BUT YOU CAN FOOL IT!



AH! A WEAK ACID! LIKE...WINE OR FRUIT JUICE.

MM. MAYBE. OR SOMETHING EVEN...





MISTRESS
WILL BE
DISPLEASED.



HE LITERALLY
CAUGHT US
WITH OUR
PANTS DOWN.



A CONSTRUCT!
WHO ARE THESE
PEOPLE?!

I DON'T THINK IT'S
THE MOST WELL-BUILT
GOLEM IN THE WORLD. I
OUTSMARTED IT BEF..



VAX!

KRACK!



THIS IS WHAT
WE GET FOR
NOT RESTING.



THIS ISN'T WORKING!



RUNNING OUT OF SPELLS! AND... BLOOD AND ORGANS!

FLEE, THEN.



THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE POWER OF MAGIC! YOU NEED TO LEARN WHEN TO GIVE UP, DRAGON MAN!

MY POWER COMES FROM WITHIN. NO GODS, NO RESEARCH, NEITHER NATURE NOR SONG. AS LONG AS THERE IS WILL...



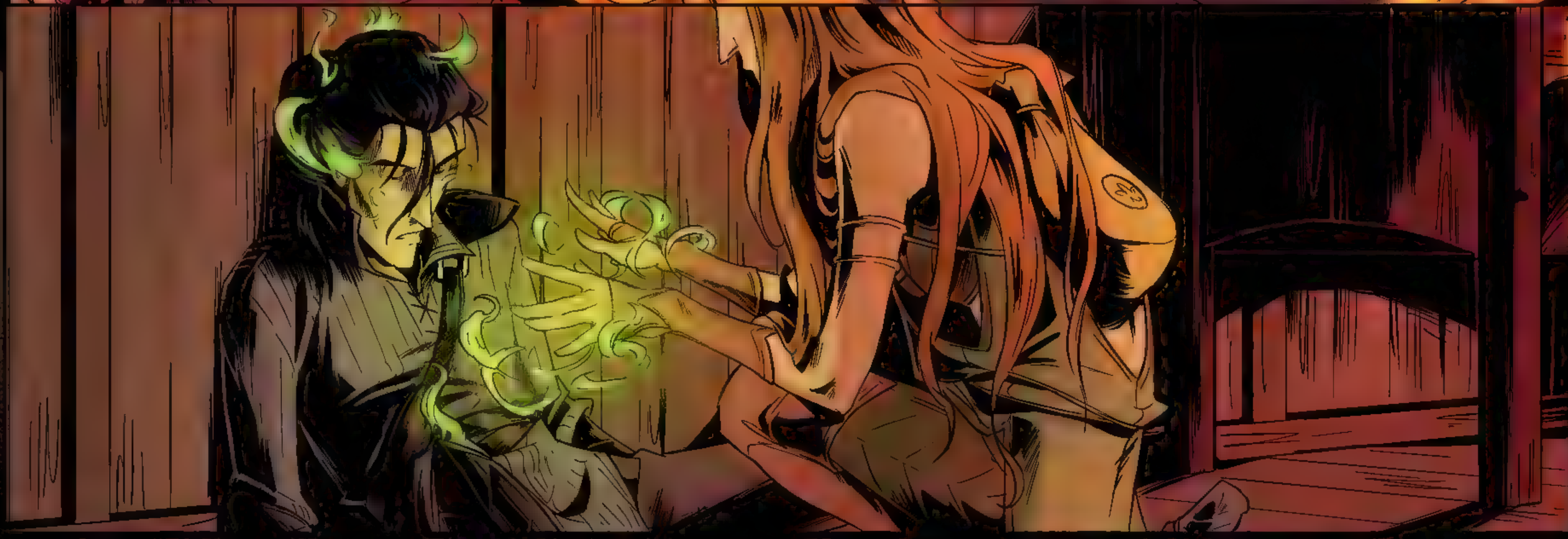
...THERE IS POWER!



BURNING
HANDS!

IIIEEE!

FINOSHAAA



I COULD GET USED
TO THIS, HAVING
HEALERS AROUND.



URK

SHRUK!



TOLD YOU, ALL THE LITTLE INSECTS CAUGHT IN MY WEB. SO PREDICTABLE.



WE'LL SURPRISE YOU YET.



FIIIRE!

FWOOOOH!

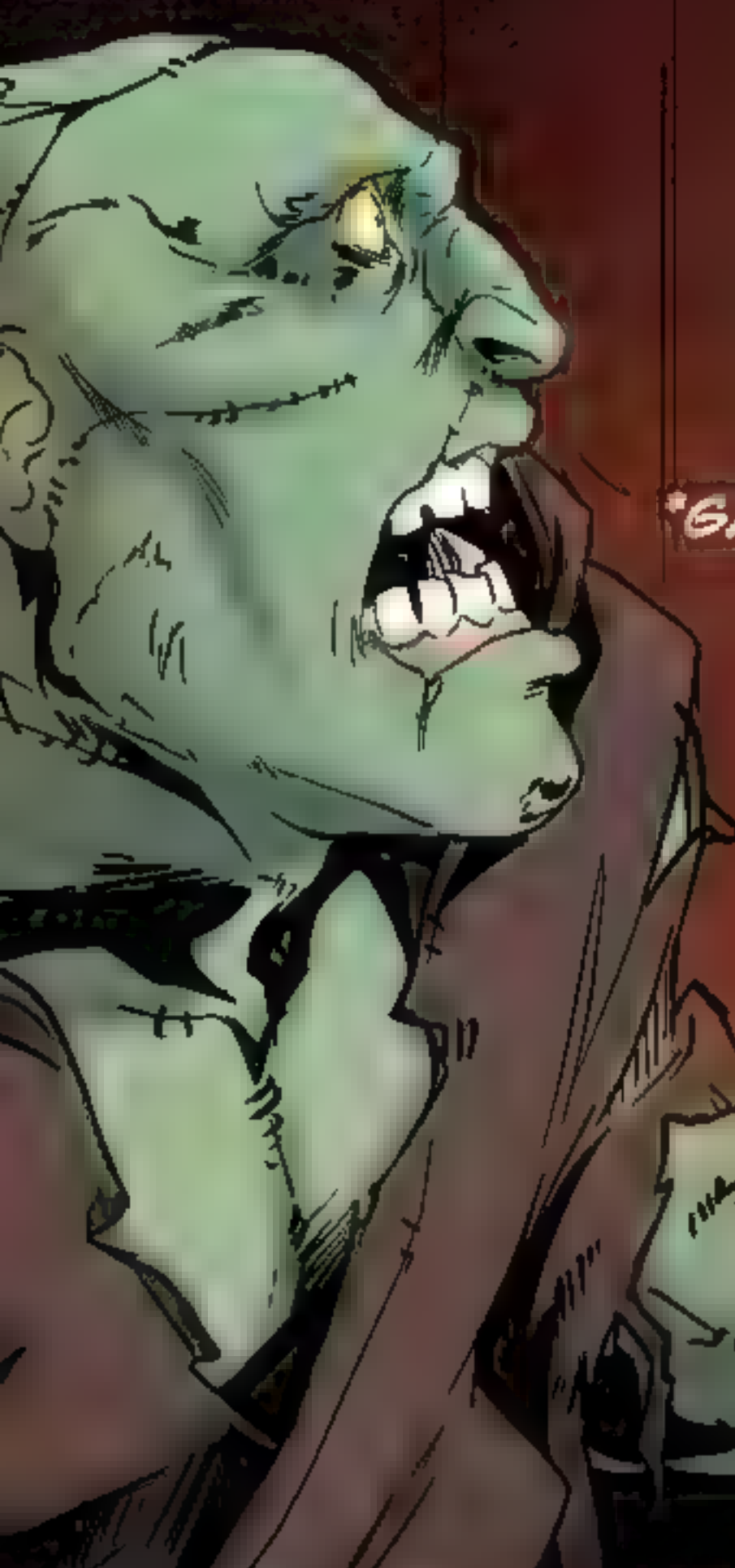


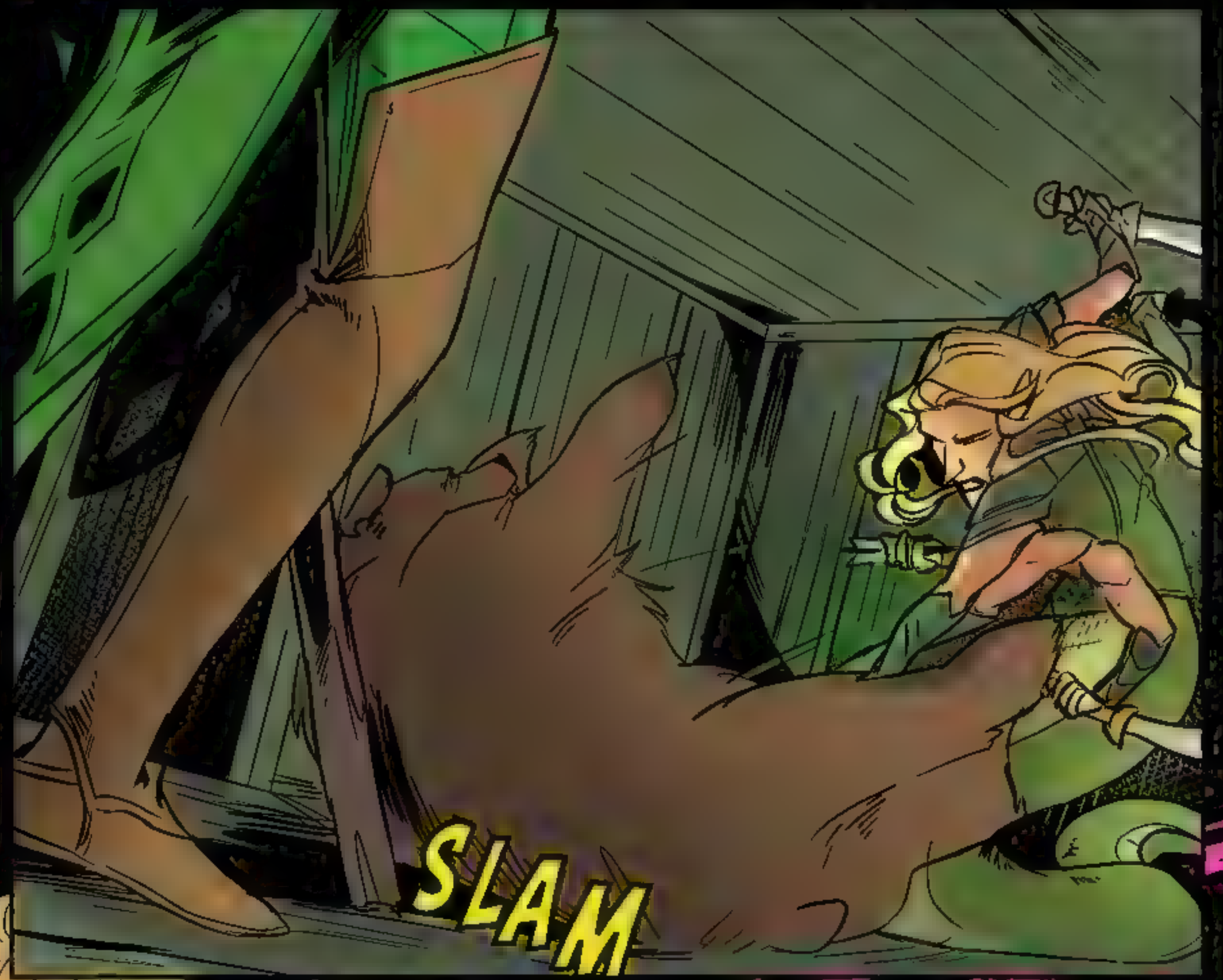
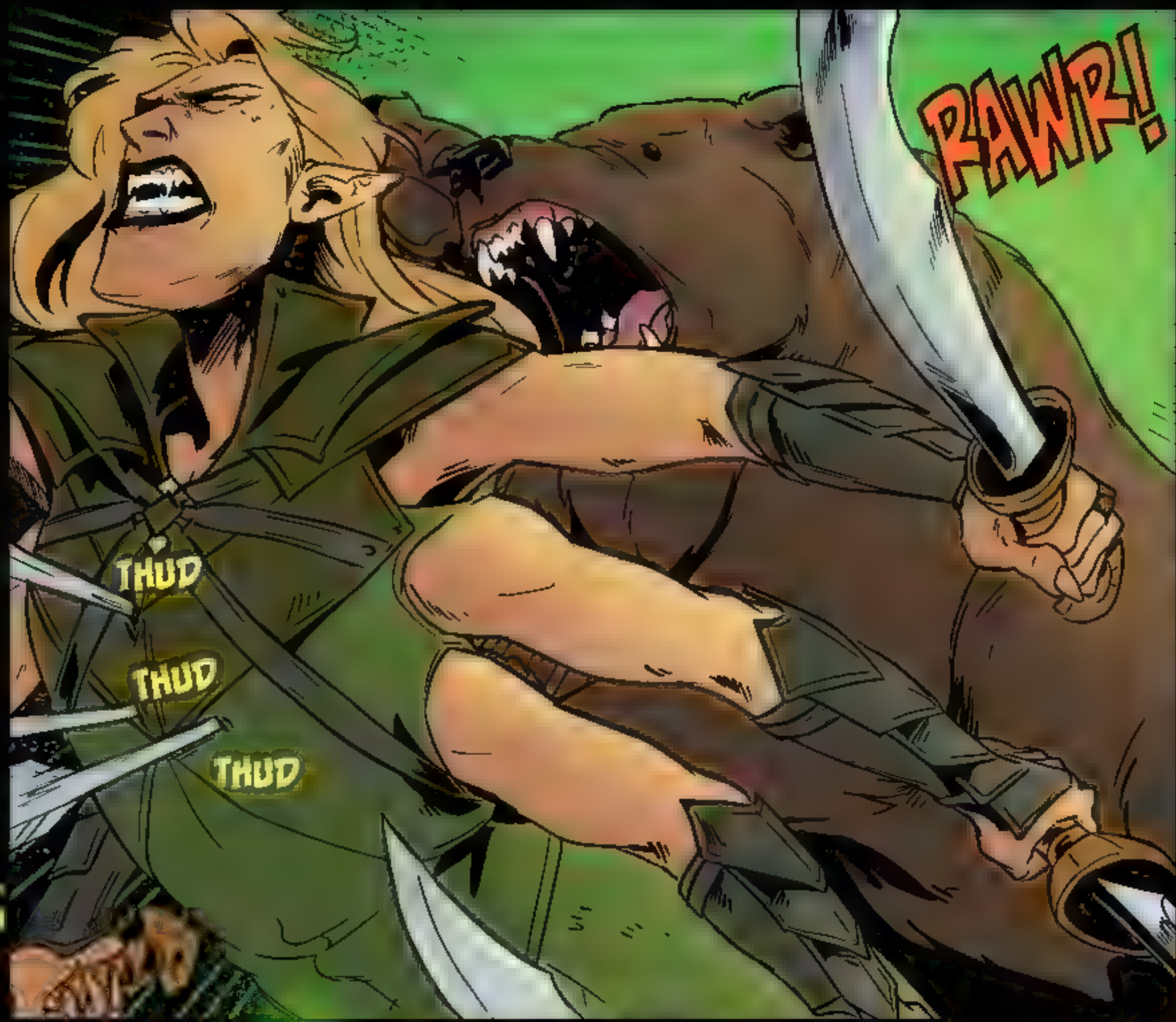
RRAAGGH! MASTER!

WHAM



YOU STUPID BRUTE!







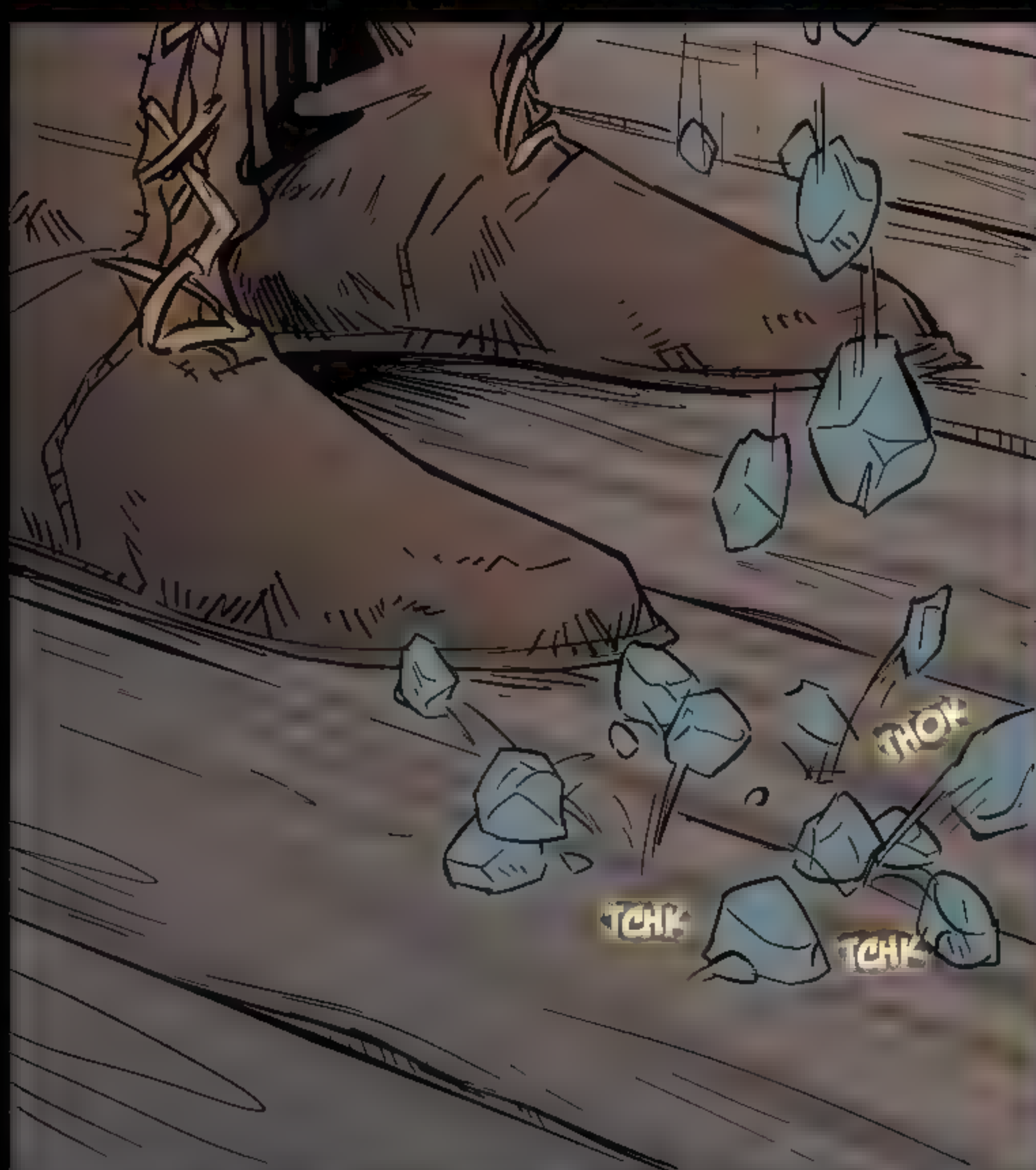


CRASH!

ARG



FWOOOOM!!!





AND WE *PEED*
IN IT TOO! HAH!
TAKE THAT, BITCH!
WOOOOOO!



GROG, YOU
SAVED US.

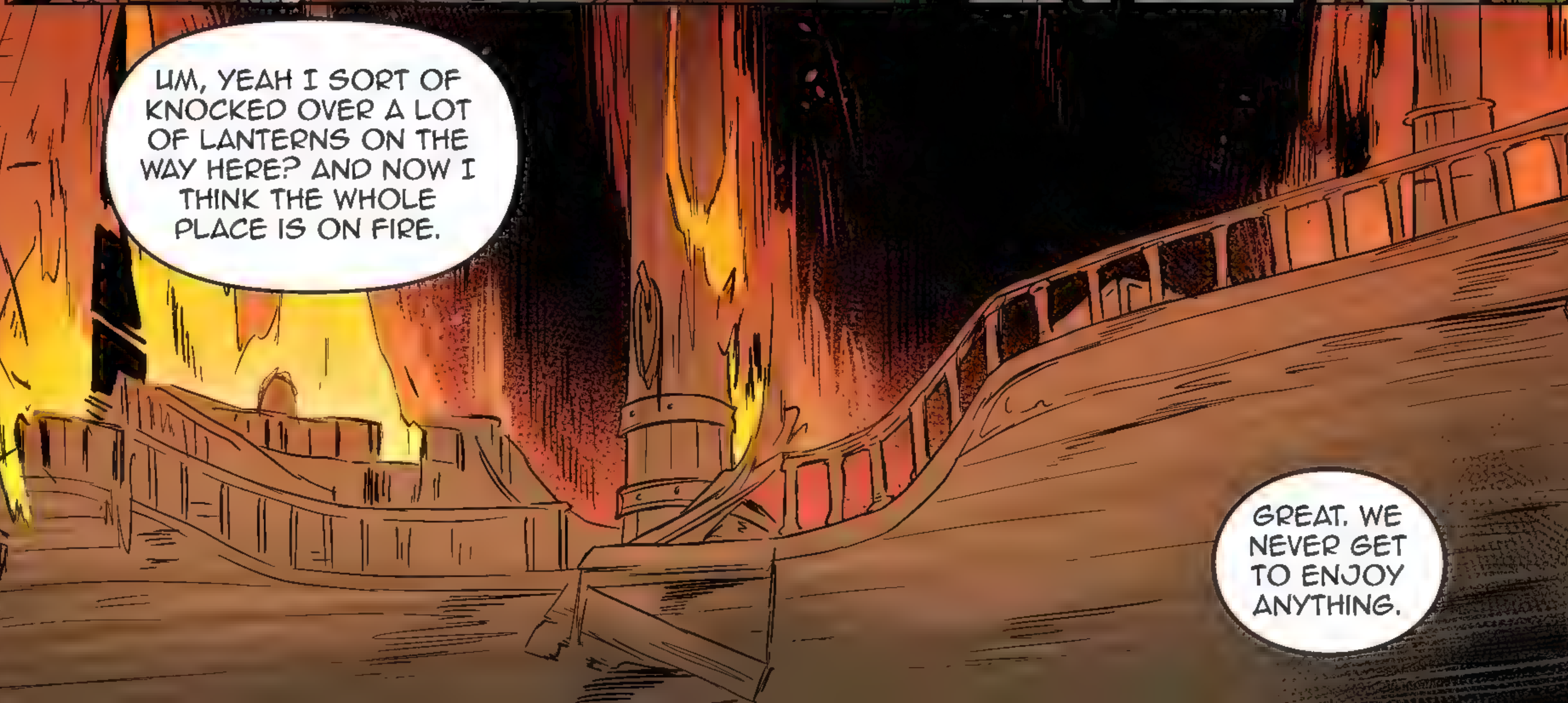
WHAT? OH. HELLO
TIGER-LADY! THAT
WAS FUN. IS
EVERYBODY ALIVE?

YEP! WELCOME
BACK, BIG GUY,
GREAT ENTRANCE.
HEY, IS THERE ANY
LOOT IN THIS
PLACE?



OH, UM. YEAH.
BUT I FINK IT'S
PROBABLY
MELTED BY
NOW?

M-MELTED?



UM, YEAH I SORT OF
KNOCKED OVER A LOT
OF LANTERNS ON THE
WAY HERE? AND NOW I
THINK THE WHOLE
PLACE IS ON FIRE.

GREAT. WE
NEVER GET
TO ENJOY
ANYTHING.

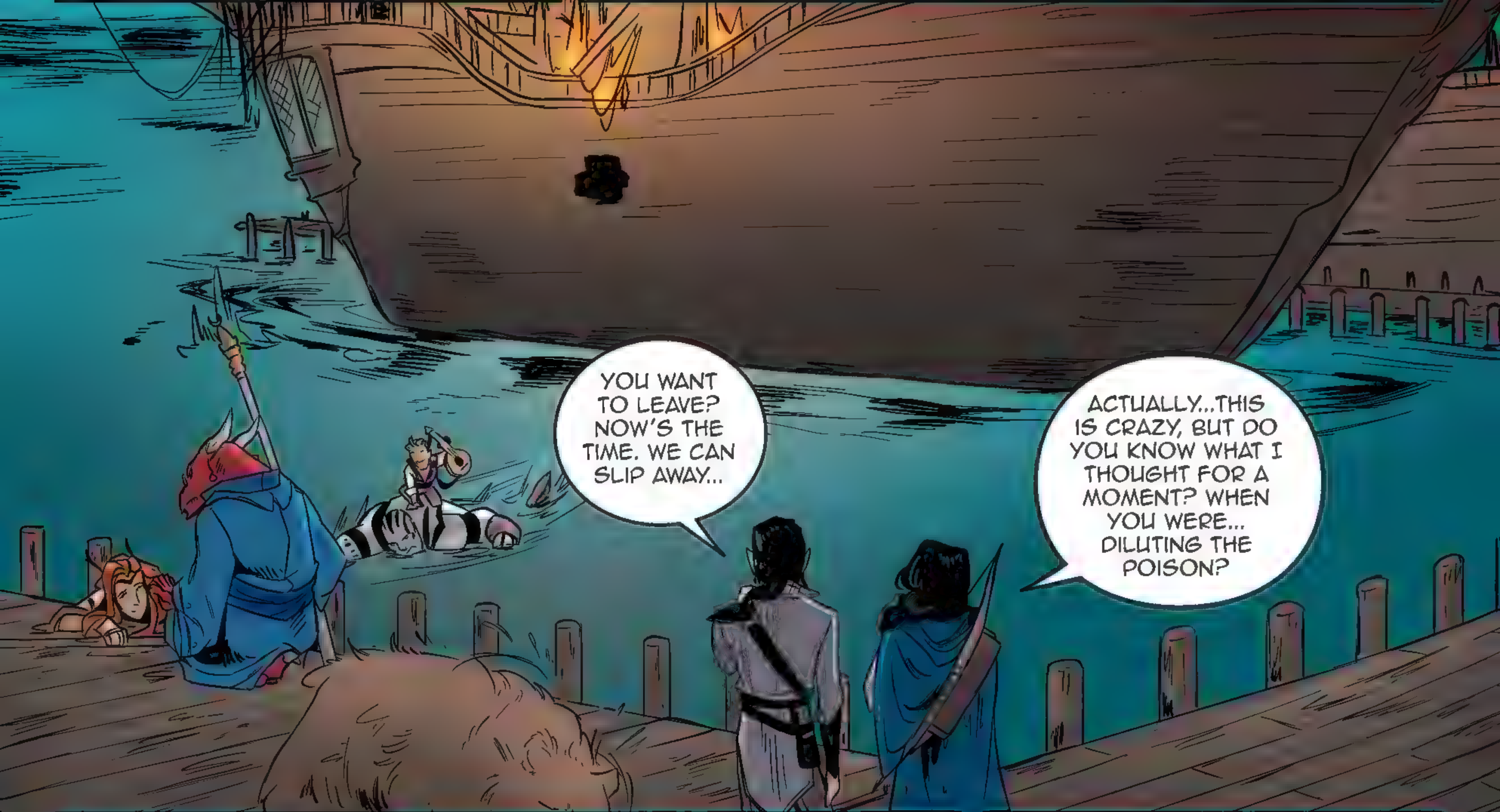


WE HAVE
TO FIND A
WAY OUT!

OKAY,
WELL...



"NNGH"



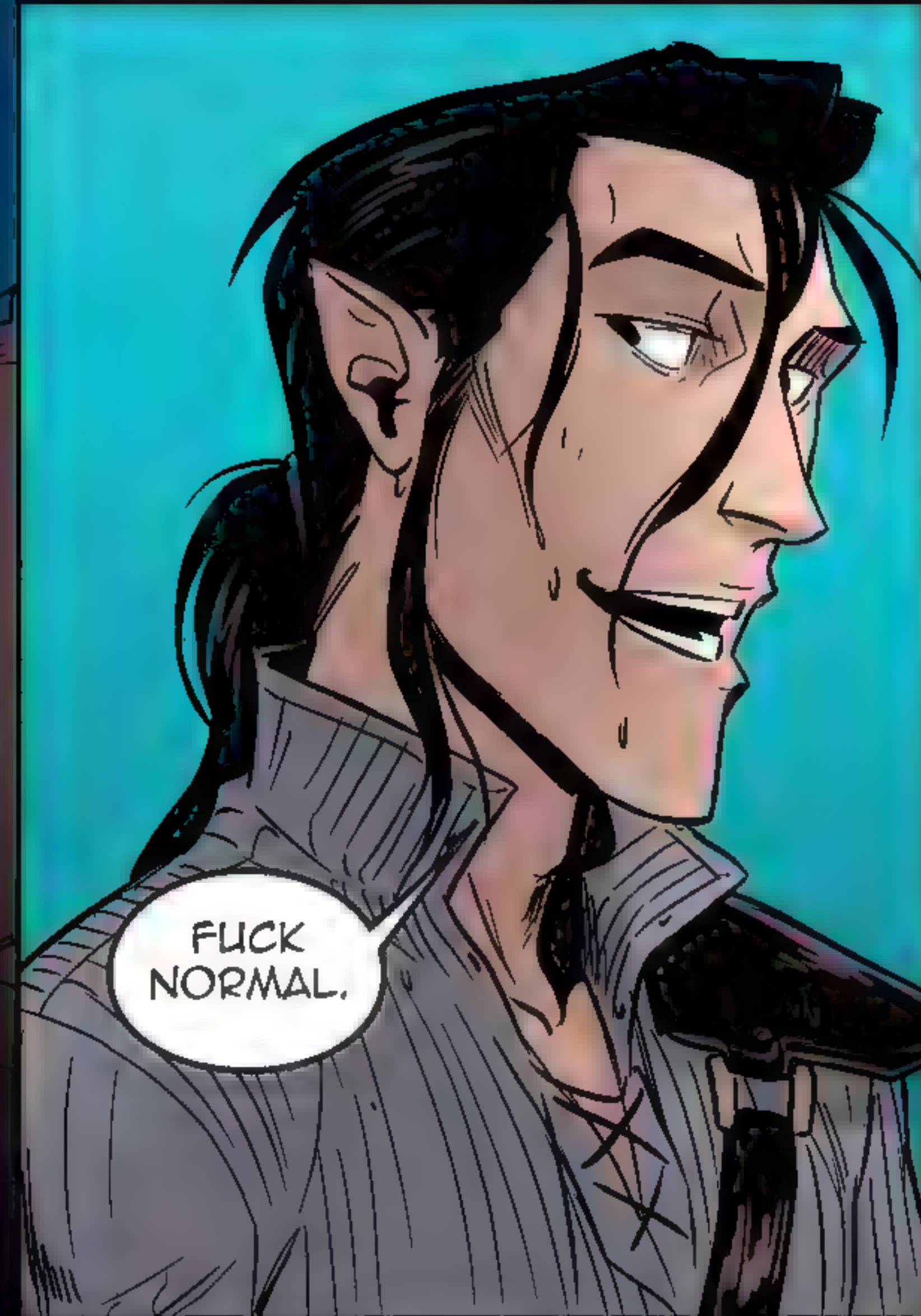
YOU WANT
TO LEAVE?
NOW'S THE
TIME. WE CAN
SLIP AWAY...

ACTUALLY...THIS
IS CRAZY, BUT DO
YOU KNOW WHAT I
THOUGHT FOR A
MOMENT? WHEN
YOU WERE...
DILUTING THE
POISON?



THIS IS WHAT IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN
LIKE AT THE SCHOOL.
IF WE'D BEEN...YOU
KNOW. ANYONE ELSE.

NORMAL
KIDS.



FUCK
NORMAL.









STILBEN





Iselda

Summoned from her home plane before fulfilling her full allotment of souls, Iselda was trained by the Myriad in illusion. She has all the same ambitions of a demon of her stature, but she has no intention of returning to the Abyss. She finds climbing the ladder in the Myriad far easier than competing for souls. Even if the thing at the top of the ladder is worse than any demon of the Abyss. ➡

ISELDA, LESSER MARILITH

Medium Fiend (demon), Chaotic Evil

ARMOR CLASS: 16 (natural armor)

HIT POINTS: 63 (7d10+21)

STRENGTH: 16 (+3)

DEXTERITY: 15 (+2)

CONSTITUTION: 16 (+3)

INTELLIGENCE: 16 (+3)

WISDOM: 14 (+2)

CHARISMA: 17 (+3)

SAVING THROWS: Wis +5, Cha +6

DAMAGE RESISTANCES: cold, fire, lightning; bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing from nonmagical weapons

DAMAGE IMMUNITIES: poison

CONDITION IMMUNITIES: poisoned

SENSES: passive perception 13

LANGUAGES: Abyssal

CHALLENGE 5 (1,800 XP)

TRAITS

INNATE SPELLCASTING. Iselda's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 13). She can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components:

AT WILL: disguise self, fear, hypnotic pattern

ACTIONS

MULTIATTACK. Iselda makes six attacks with her longswords.

LONGSWORD. Melee Weapon Attack: +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., One target. Hit: 8 (1d8 + 3) slashing damage.

REACTIONS

PARRY. Iselda adds 5 to her AC against one melee attack that would hit her. To do so, she must see her attacker and be wielding a melee weapon.



The Servant, Flesh Golem (Minor)

While the servant obeys Iselda’s commands, it’s only because it was instructed to by its Master, Iselda’s direct supervisor and owner of the Mirror of Translation. In times of great stress, the Servant seeks its master’s aid. It is intensely loyal to its original master, the being that made it and granted it the power of speech. ➤

FLESH GOLEM (MINOR)

Medium construct, neutral

ARMOR CLASS: 9

HIT POINTS: 58 (6d8 + 18)

SPEED: 30 ft.

STRENGTH: 18 (+4)

DEXTERITY: 9 (-1)

CONSTITUTION: 16 (+3)

INTELLIGENCE: 6 (-2)

WISDOM: 10 (+0)

CHARISMA: 5 (-3)

DAMAGE IMMUNITIES: lightning, poison; bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing from nonmagical weapons that aren’t adamantine.

CONDITION IMMUNITIES: charmed, exhaustion, frightened, paralyzed, petrified, poisoned

SENSES: darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

LANGUAGES: Common, Abyssal

CHALLENGE 3 (700 XP)

TRAITS

BERSERK. Whenever the golem starts its turn with 30 hit points or fewer, roll a d6. On a 5 or 6, the golem goes berserk. On each of its turns while berserk, the golem attacks the nearest creature it can see. If no creature is near enough to move to and attack, the golem attacks an object, with preference for an object smaller than itself. Once the golem goes berserk, it continues to do so until it is destroyed or regains all its hit points. The golem’s creator, if within 60 feet of the berserk golem, can try to calm it by speaking firmly and persuasively. The golem must be able to hear its creator, who must take an action to make a DC 15 Charisma (Persuasion) check. If the check succeeds, the golem stops berserking. If it takes damage while still at 30 hit points or fewer, the golem might go berserk again.

AVERSION TO FIRE. If the golem takes fire damage, it has disadvantage on attack rolls and ability checks until the end of its next turn.

IMMUTABLE FORM. The golem is immune to any spell or effect that would alter its form.

LIGHTNING ABSORPTION. Whenever the golem is subjected to lightning damage, it takes no damage and instead regains a number of hit points equal to the lightning damage dealt.

MAGIC RESISTANCE. The golem has advantage on saving throws against spells and other magical effects.

MAGIC WEAPONS. The golem’s weapon attacks are magical.

ACTIONS

MULTIATTACK. The golem makes two slam attacks.

SLAM. Melee Weapon Attack: +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 13 (2d8 + 4) bludgeoning damage.



The Mirror of Translation

Wondrous Item, very rare

Loaned to Iselda by the Master of the Myriad, this 5-foot-tall mirror in a gilded frame allows anyone attuned to it to teleport through it and out of any other reflective surface within five miles via the process of focusing. ➤

ATTUNING: Attuning to the mirror requires the owner to sacrifice one hit die in a ritual that involves cutting yourself with a ceremonial glass-bladed dagger. Blood from the wound must drip onto the surface of the mirror, which absorbs the blood, leaving no trace. The owner then marks off one hit die, which cannot be restored by rest or healing until someone else attunes to the mirror.

FOCUSING ON A SUBJECT: The owner of the mirror can alter the image the mirror displays by focusing its surface on a subject, if that subject is within fifteen feet of a reflective surface, and within five miles of the *Mirror of Translation*. The owner must stand before the mirror, and perform a Charisma check. If the owner of the mirror has never met the subject, the DC is 25. If they have, the DC drops to 20. If they carry a personal possession of the subject of great emotional value, the DC is 15. If they have the blood of the subject, the DC is 10.

The mirror can focus on several reflective surfaces at once, if those surfaces are within 15 feet of each other and all focus on the same subject. While focused, the owner can use any of the available surfaces.

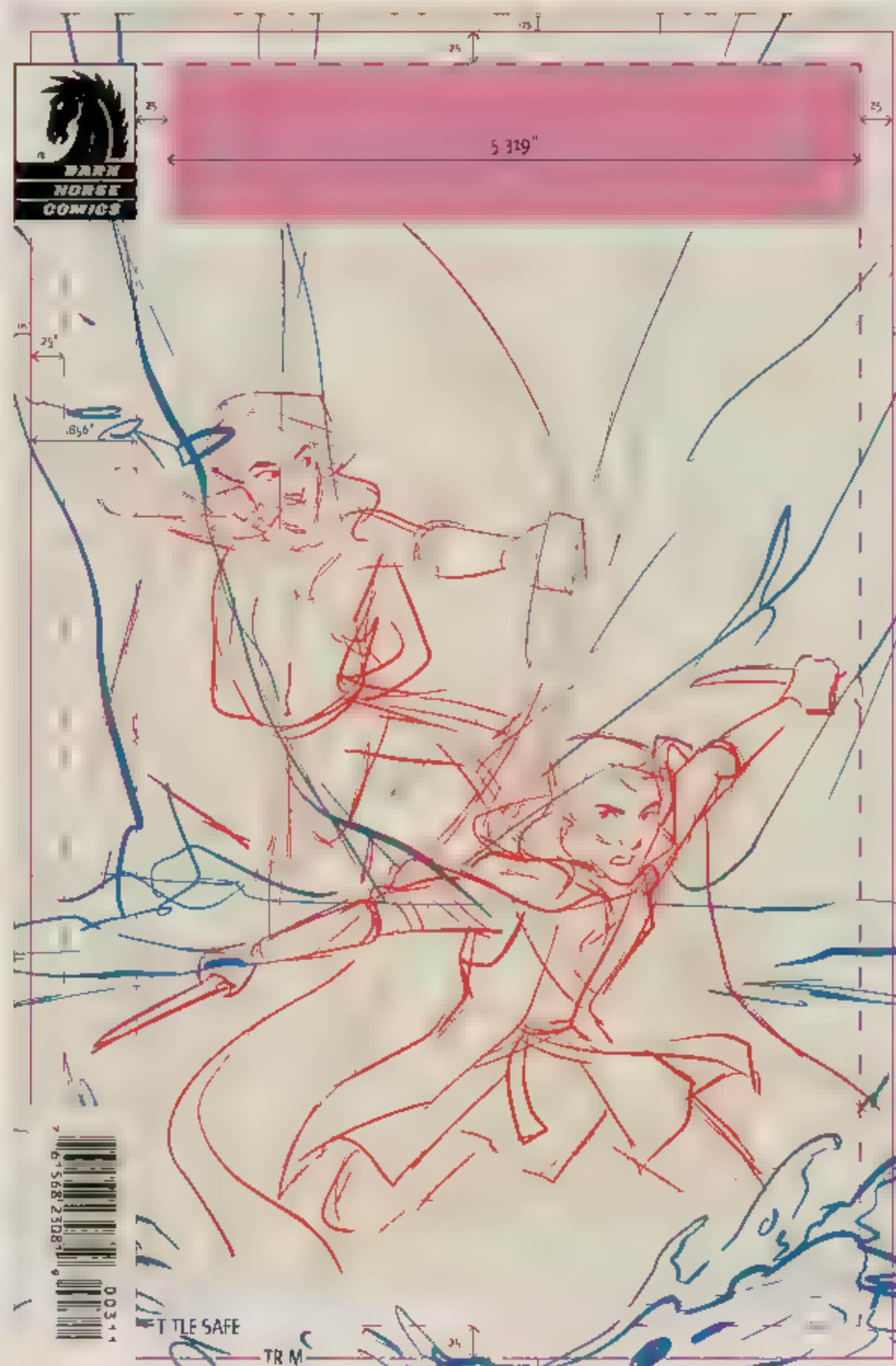
If successful, the mirror acts as a portal between its surface and those reflective surfaces it is focused on, translating the owner through the portal. The portal stays open for one minute, after which the connection closes.

CRITICAL ROLE VOX|MACHINA™ ORIGINS

SKETCHBOOK

Notes by F. Avedon Arcadio Barrera II

It's always a great pleasure to get to work with talented artists, and we were more than fortunate to find the perfect cover artists in our very own community of Critters.



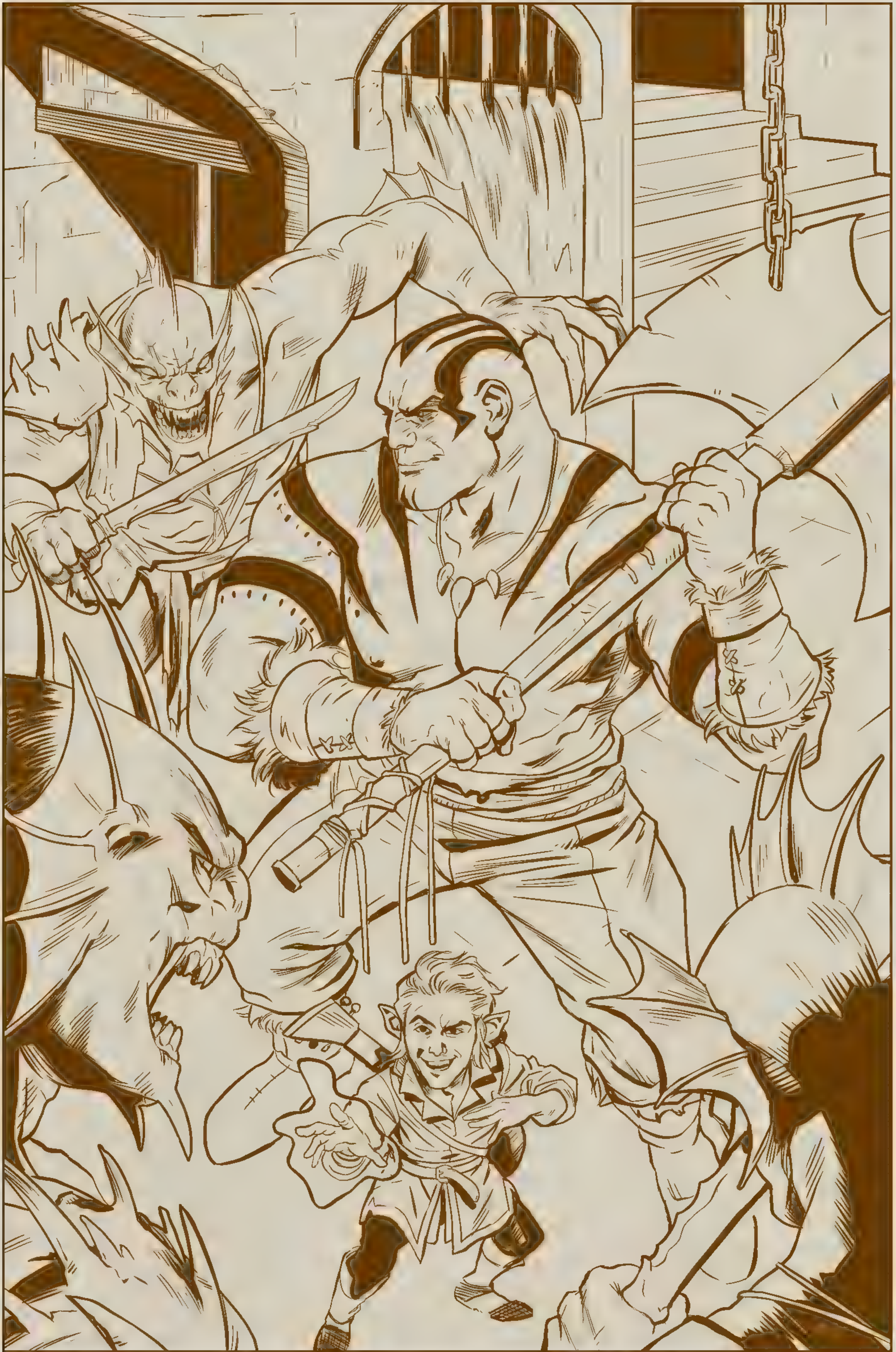
Since the story started with our favorite half-elf twins, Vex'ahlia and Vax'ildan, we had to determine how best to depict them. It was important that we conveyed their personalities through their expressions, so they went from being smiling (*bottom left*) to much more stern (*bottom right*).



While we ultimately decided to show the twins in an action pose, Deb also sketched out a subtler shot of them wading through the swamps, which also worked very well.



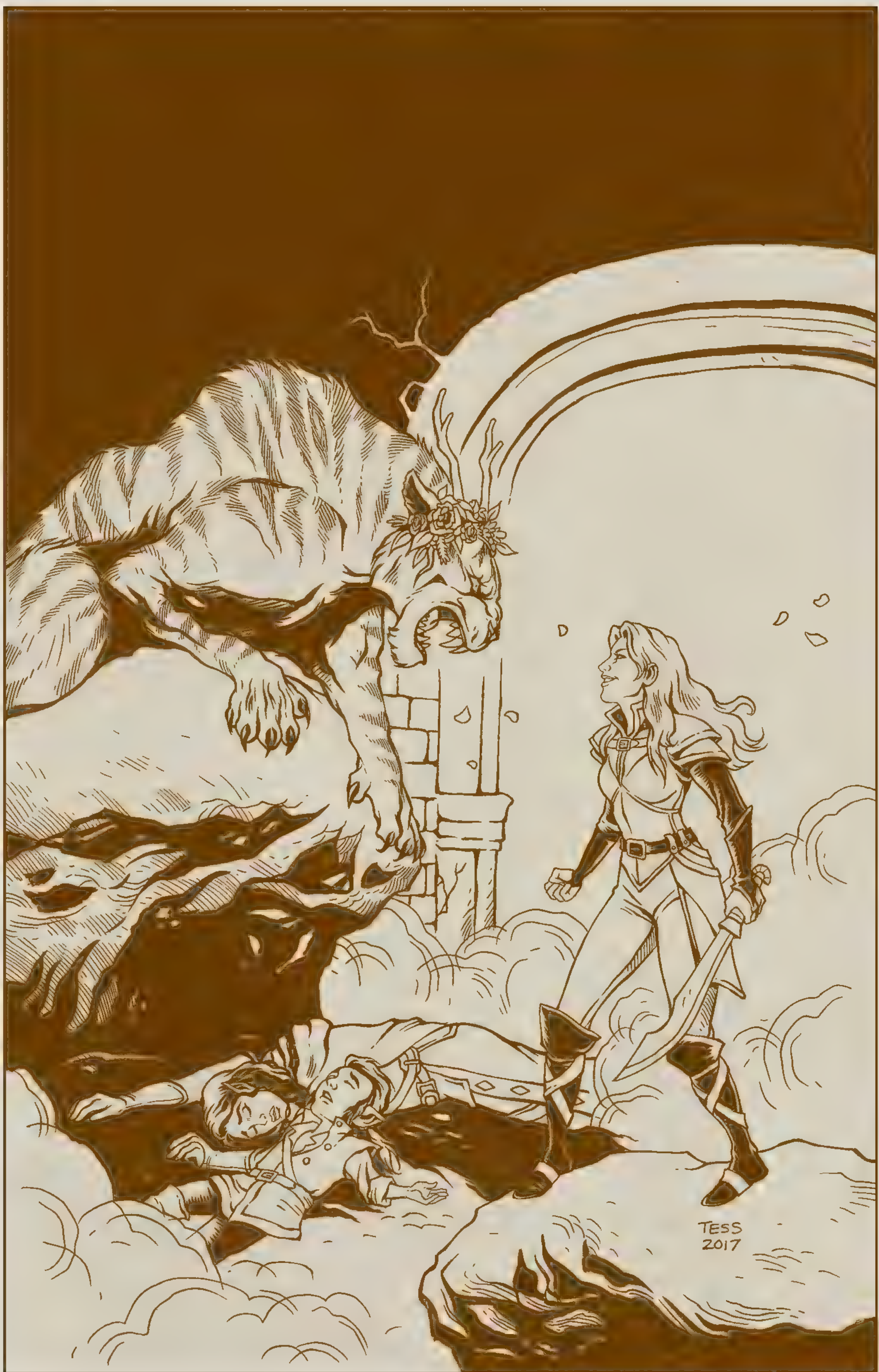
Nick Robles has a knack for evoking that classical fantasy style in his art and I wanted him to channel some *Conan the Barbarian* vibes, which he did perfectly. Juxtaposing a serious warrior with a goof-ball bard could have gone either way, but having someone who understood the characters and their personalities created the perfect distinction between the two.



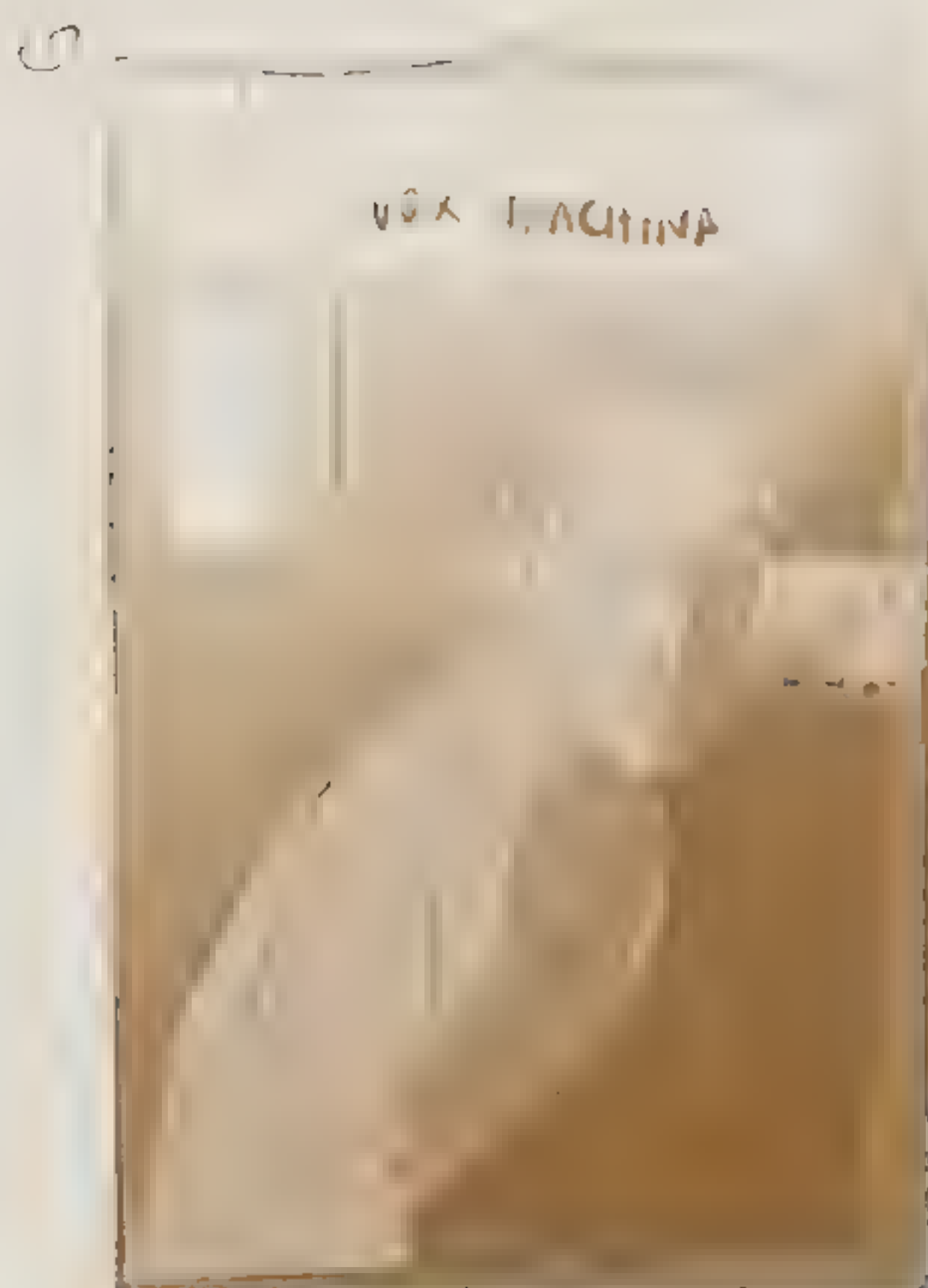
While we would have been happy with his initial designs, the additional tweaks he made for the final inks surpassed all expectations. And as is evident, his linework is fantastic.



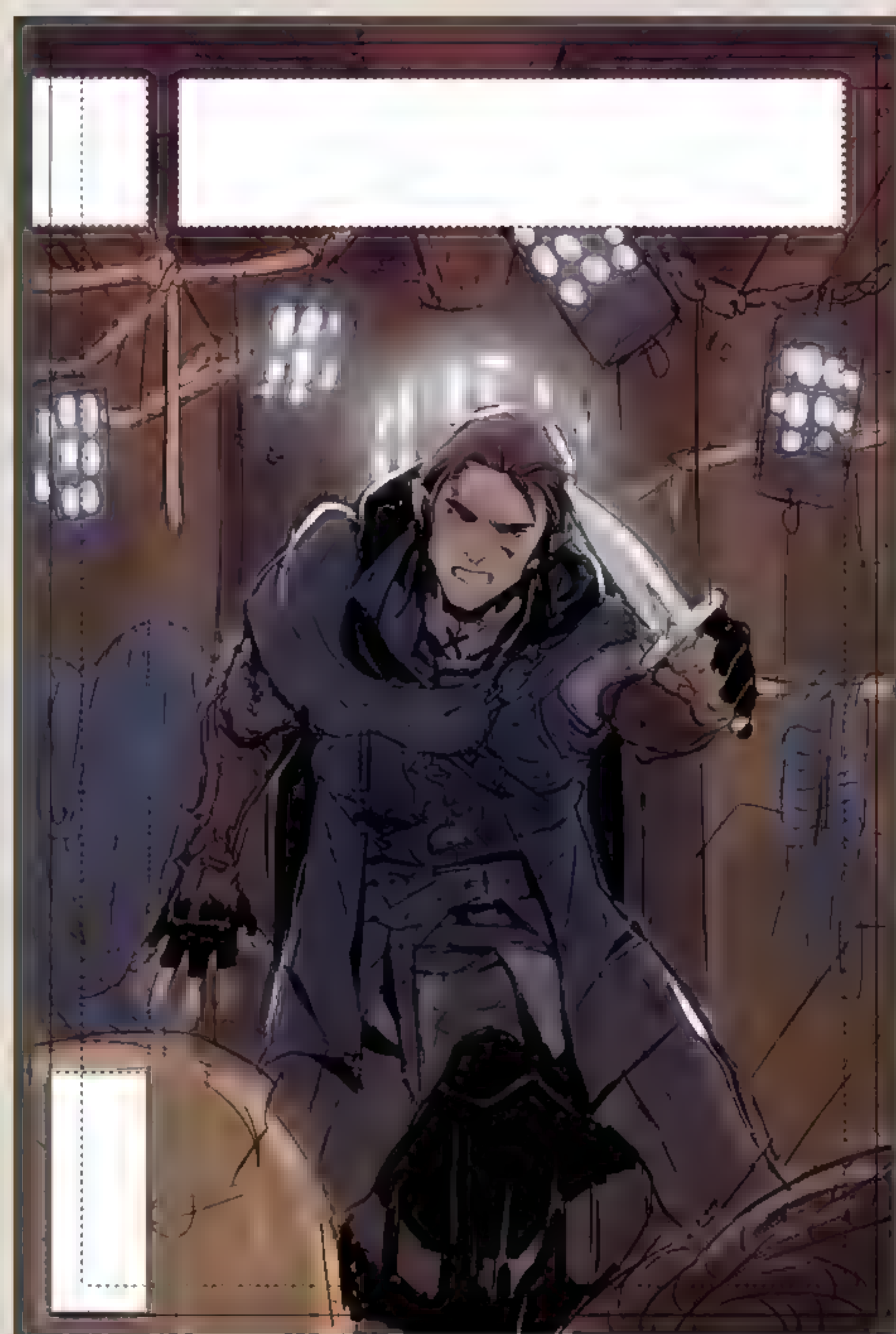
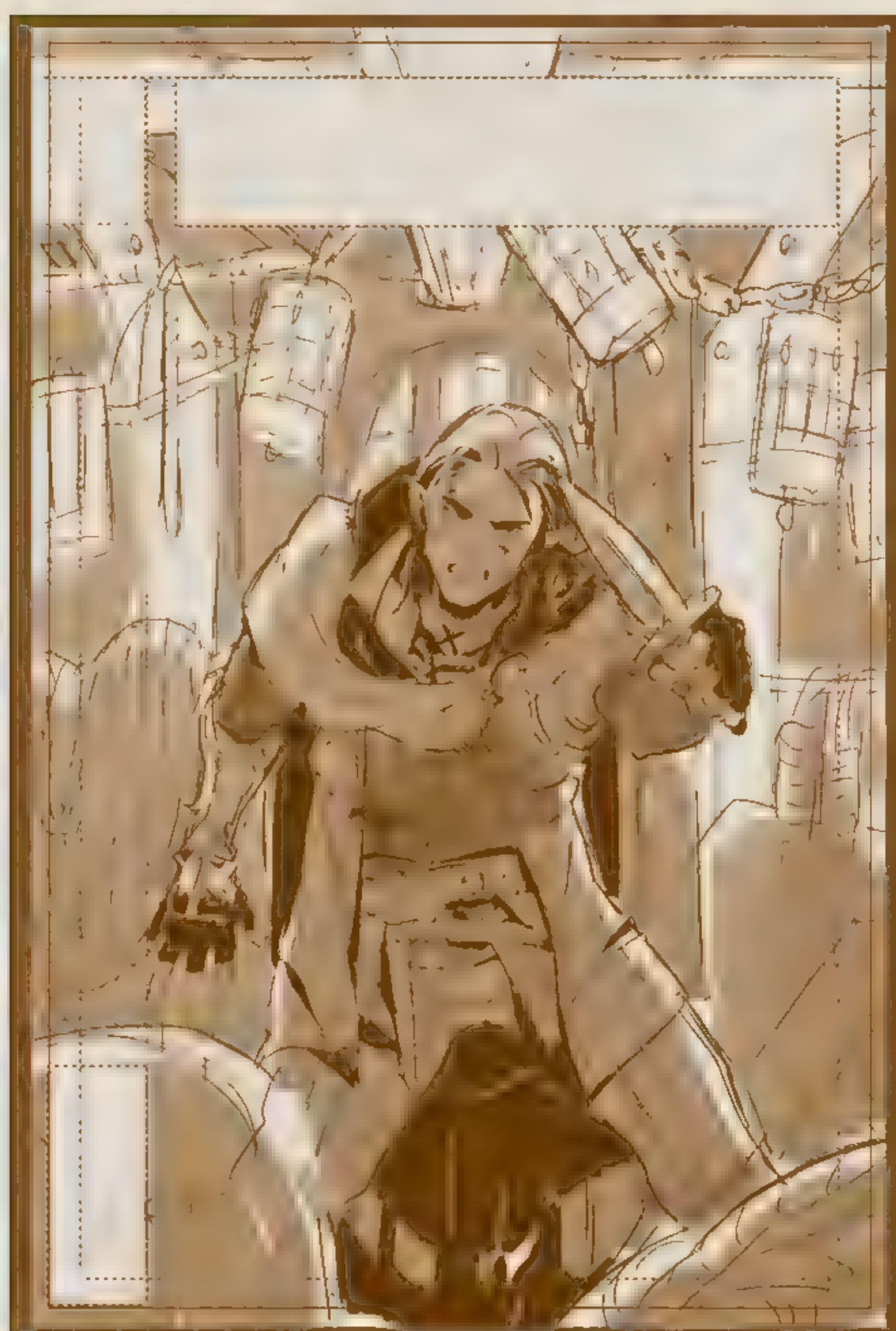
Tess Fowler, one of our more well-known Critter artists, was definitely up to the task of creating a dynamic scene featuring Iselda taking on Vox Machina. We went through a variety of comps before we settled on a showdown between Keytiger and Iselda. I think all of them were really great, but ultimately, we had to choose one.



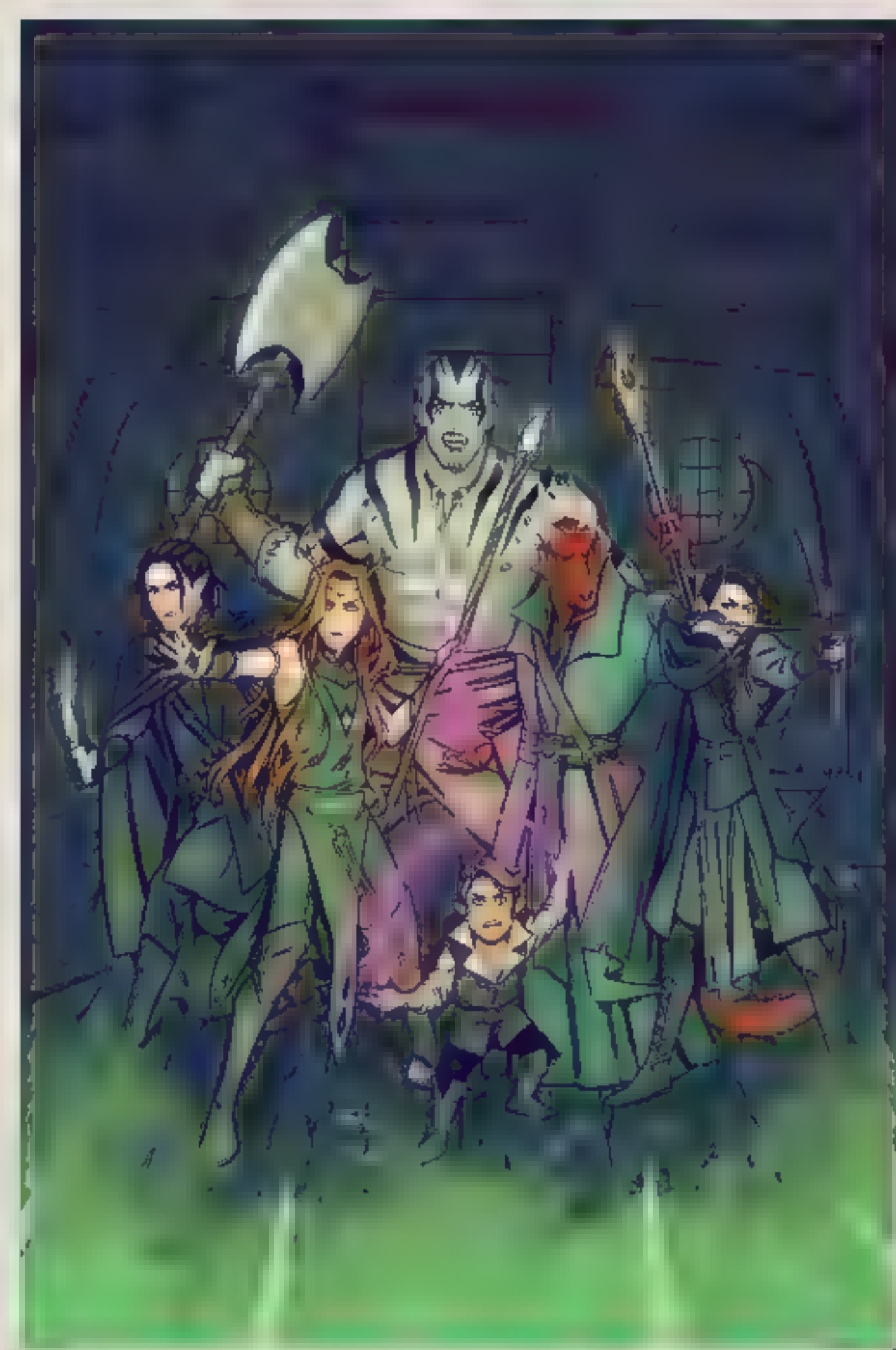
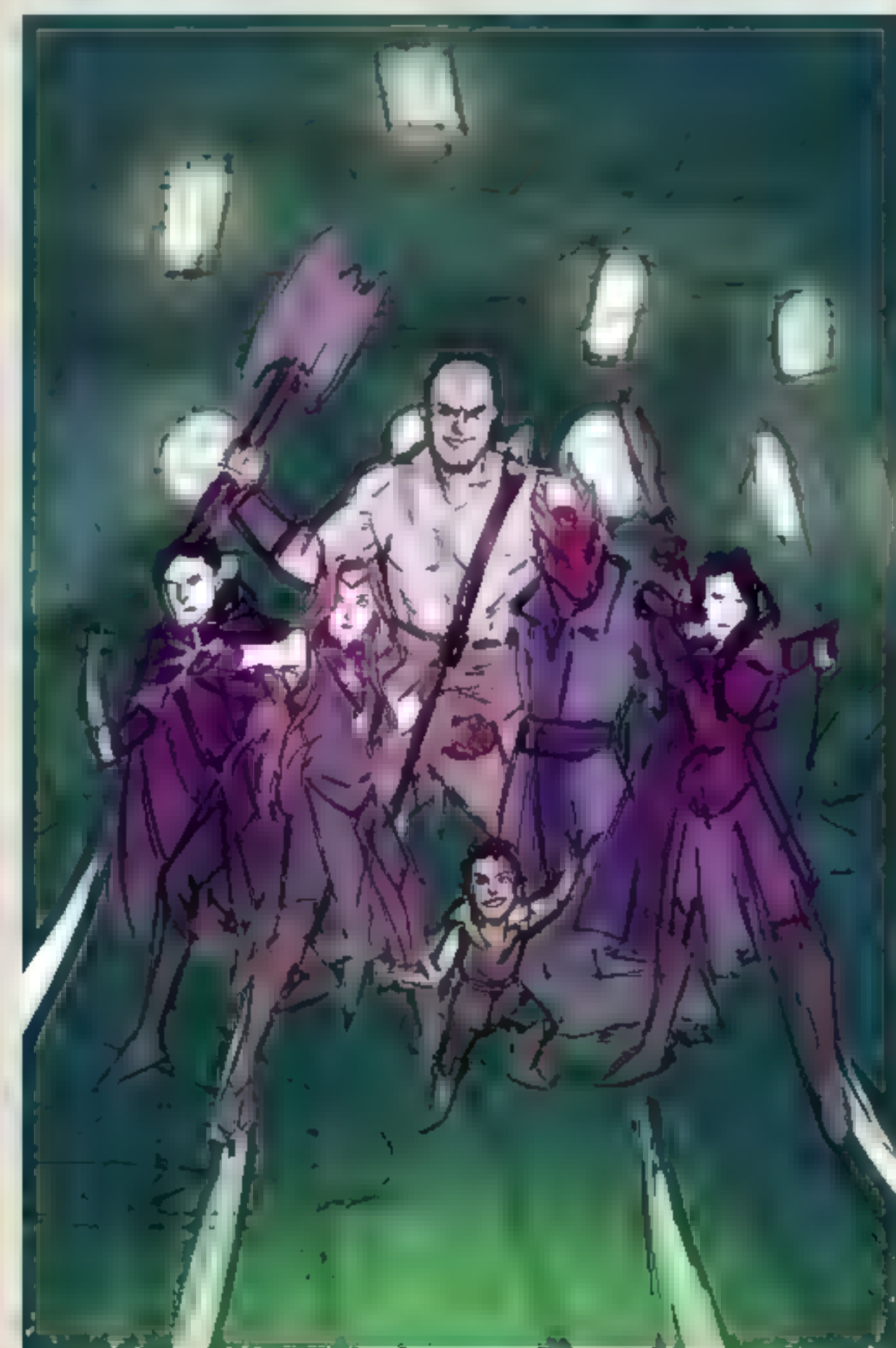
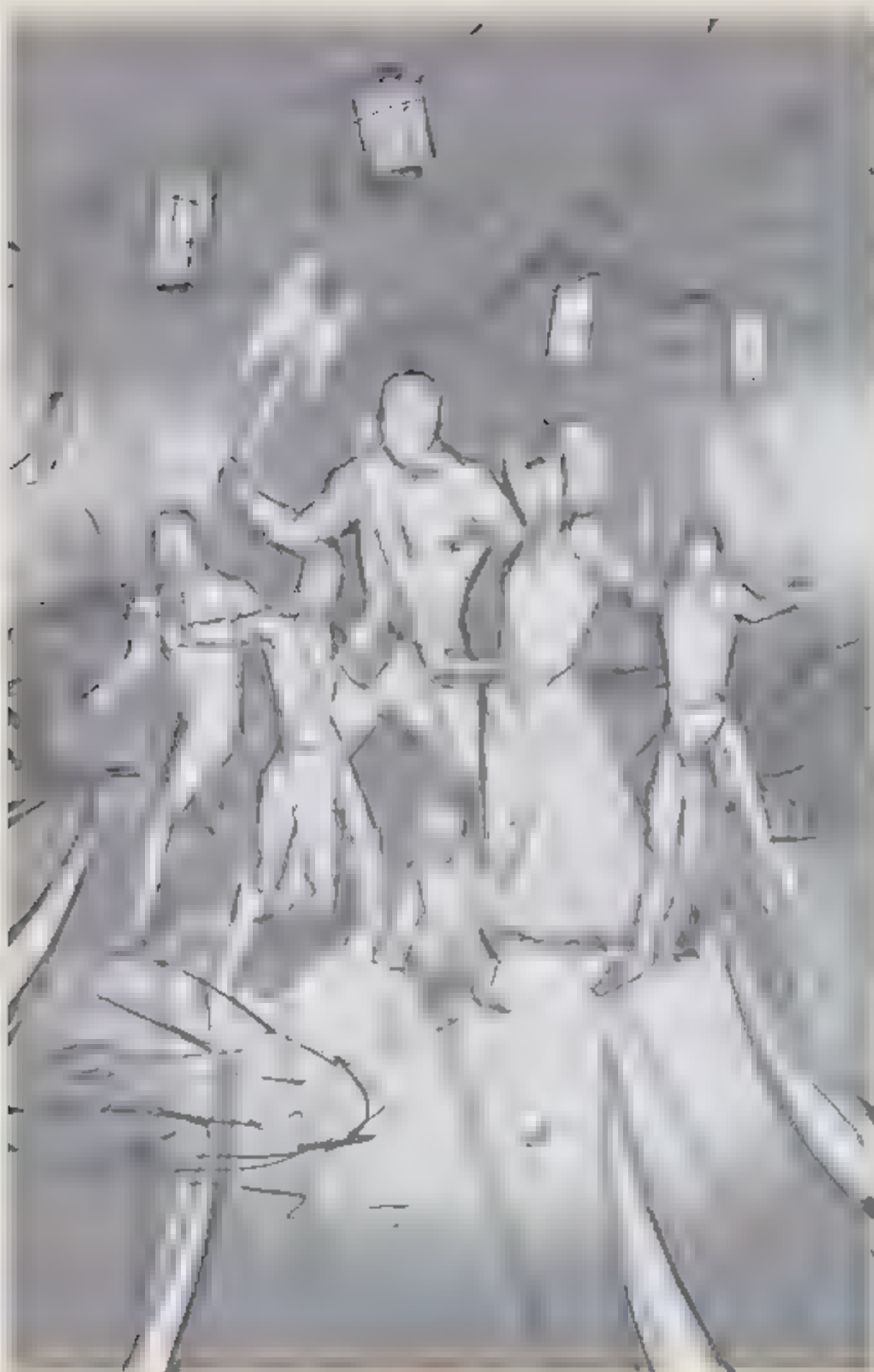
Right before we had settled on the final concept, we had a version of the cover in which Keytiger was still wearing her tiara. For consistency's sake in the book, we opted not to use it, though it made for a funny image of a ferocious tiger with a pretty little floral crown, about to eviscerate the enemy.



Selina Espiritu is a fantastic artist who understood immediately what we were asking for, which was basically Vax stranded, beaten, and cornered in the enemy's stronghold. Some of the early comps had him a bit more vulnerable or ready for a fight.



We found that perfect balance in the final version, where beaten, but not broken, Vax was not going to go down without a fight. The additional accoutrements in the background really sold it as being within the hold of a ship.



Many Critters will recognize Ariana Orner's name—she was the artist that introduced the second campaign's new cast. It made perfect sense to have her contribute cover art. We had the concept pretty dead-on from the beginning but went through a variety of color palettes to choose the right tone and emphasize how unique each character is.

Olivia's early take on the characters was a bit more subdued, which then transitioned to a more expressive style.



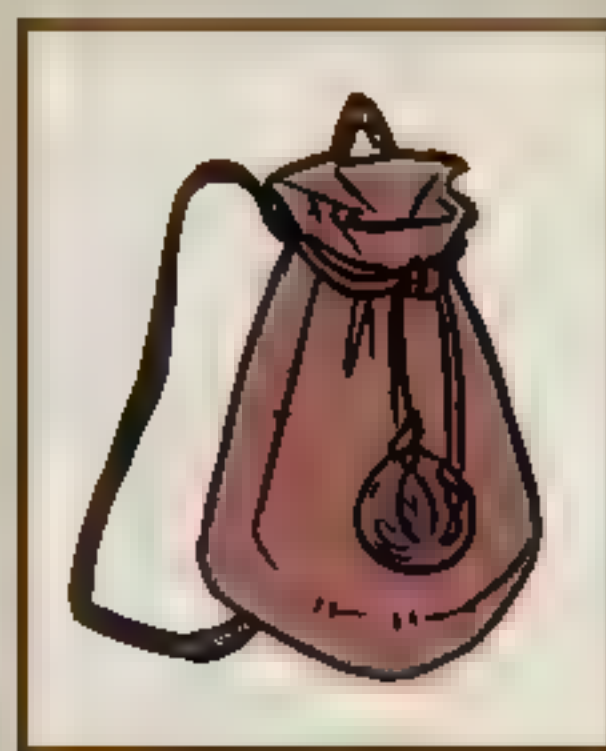
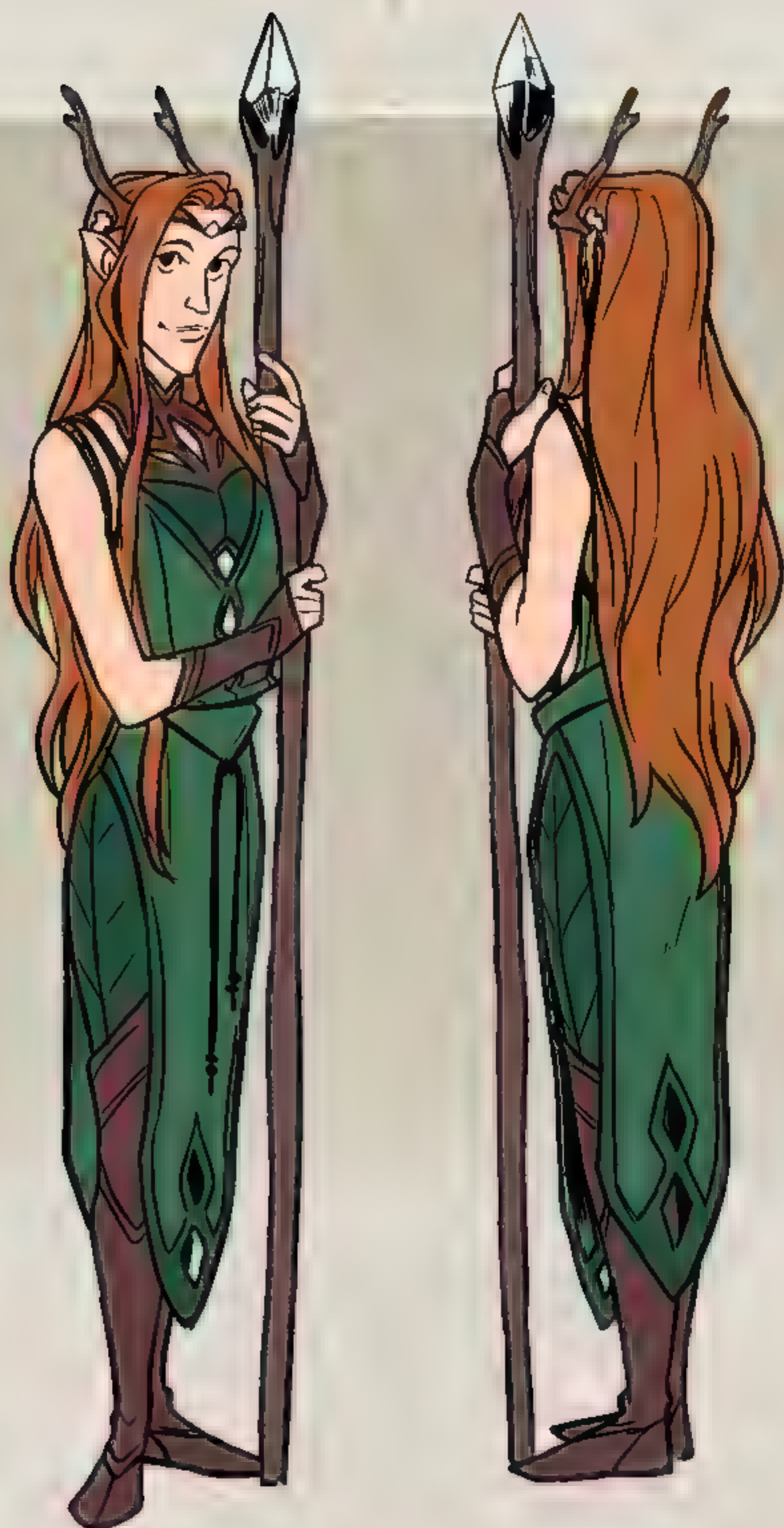
VEX' AHLIA



VAX'ILDAN



KEYLETH



This style would help convey the emotions each character would feel throughout the series. Working closely with the cast and writers, we made sure that the outfits were something each character would actually wear. While we wanted to reference what fans had already seen from years of fan art, we also wanted to create something brand new.

It was interesting to see the characters in a way that almost felt like younger versions of each one, yet still carried a palette that would represent them now, at the end of their campaign. In a way, each character showed a degree of naivet .

SCANLAN



Scanlan will always rock that purple.

GROG



Seeing Grog without his beard, belt, or gauntlets gave him a much more childlike look, adding to his personality.

TIBERIUS



While Tiberius and Scanlan seemed like the most knowledgeable, they still expressed a sense of wonder when encountering the perils they faced.



HELICAX

BRUL

STITCH



VASH

ARNIKOR

THURISTA

With an origin series, designing brand new characters to interact with our party was a must. Olivia showed her artistic range wonderfully with the variety of new characters written into the story. Each one was unique, as they were, after all, different adventuring parties crossing paths, but you could see them having their own adventures out in the world.



ISELDA



THE WATCHMAN



SPIRELING HARROCK



THE ALCHEMIST



GOLEM



ORC

The enemies had to be just as interesting as our heroes, and even more fearsome. We also had to make it obvious that the Four from Foramere weren't the nicest group to be hanging around with. When it came time to reveal Iselda as a demonic Marilith, Olivia notes, "I just made a cooler version of Iselda."



ULTIMATE ISELDA





CRITICAL ROLE VOX MACHINATM ORIGINS



The band of adventurers known as Vox Machina will save the world. Eventually. But even they have to start somewhere.

Six would-be heroes on seemingly different jobs find their paths intertwined as they investigate shady business in the swamp town of Stilben. They'll need to put their heads—and weapons—together to figure out what's going on...and keep from being killed in the process. Even then, whether or not they can overcome what truly lurks at the bottom of the town's travails remains to be seen!

From the creators of the hit show "Critical Role" comes Vox Machina's origin story, now available in paperback! Writers Matthew Mercer and Matthew Colville team with artist extraordinaire Olivia Samson and colorist Chris Northrop to bring you a look at where the heroes' journey began.



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

